

ISSUE 254
DEC. 5, 2018-JAN. 1, 2019

LITTLE VILLAGE ALWAYS FREE

BEST OF THE CR AND IC 2018



A READER-SELECTED
LOCALS' GUIDE
TO THE CR AND IC AREA

Best Elected Officials:
Mazahir Salih & Stacey Walker



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JANUARY

24 Tre Voci

FEBRUARY

2 Club Hancher: Banda Magda

6 Culinary Arts Experience:
University Catering
Dinner with the Chefs

8-10 *Jersey Boys*

16 Rahim AlHaj and string ensemble
Letters from Iraq

21 *We Shall Overcome— A Celebration of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Featuring Damien Sneed

23 Russian National Orchestra

MARCH

2 Danú

8 Lawrence Brownlee and Eric Owens

10 Theatre Lovett, *They Called Her Vivaldi*

14 Havana Cuba All-Stars
Asere! A Fiesta Cubana

30 Club Hancher: Kaia Kater

31 Brentano String Quartet

APRIL

6 American Ballet Theatre
Whipped Cream

12 Batsheva Dance Company, *Venezuela*

24 Culinary Arts Experience:
Trumpet Blossom Café



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Photo: Shervin Lainez



Photo: Gene Schiavone

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Top: Banda Magda, Havana Cuba All-Stars,
American Ballet Theatre
Bottom: Damien Sneed, Batsheva Dance
Company, Russian National Orchestra, Kaia Kater



Photo: © Ascaf



Photo: Rael Arguilla





Best Elected Official winners:
Mazahir Salih (Iowa City Council)
and Stacey Walker (Linn County
Board of Supervisors) at Hamburg
Inn No. 2. *Photo by Jav Ducker*

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ALWAYS FREE

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6 DEC. 5, 2018–JAN. 1, 2019 LITTLEVILLAGE



What's a CRANDIC?

Is it spelled like it sounds?

I feel weird.

**How do you refer to
the Cedar Rapids and
Iowa City area?**

Since long before the ICR
was dubbed the Corridor,
it was known as the
CRANDIC—taken from
the **CR-and-IC** train line
that has served the area
since 1904, “the CRANDIC
Route.” Whatever you call
this area, we love it and
we love you. **Thank you
for playing Best of the
CRANDIC!**

HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

From Aug. 1–Sept. 30, readers cast their votes at
LittleVillageMag.com/CRANDIC, including short answers
not only for *who* should win, but also *why*.

Yes, you could cast multiple votes—but unique, thoughtful
explanations for voters' choices were also valued in
the final tally. We've included many of those responses
throughout this magazine, along with shout-outs to the
runners up.

Also, yes, *Little Village's* distribution is higher in the
IC area than the CR area. But that didn't stop CR
organizations from taking home several prizes! To add
distribution locations in CR, IC or anywhere else in the
state, contact distro@littlevillagemag.com.

8 - Your Village
12 - Arts & Entertainment
22 - Community
34 - Health & Recreation

42 - Goods & Services
50 - Food & Drink
62 - Events Calendar
75 - Dear Kiki

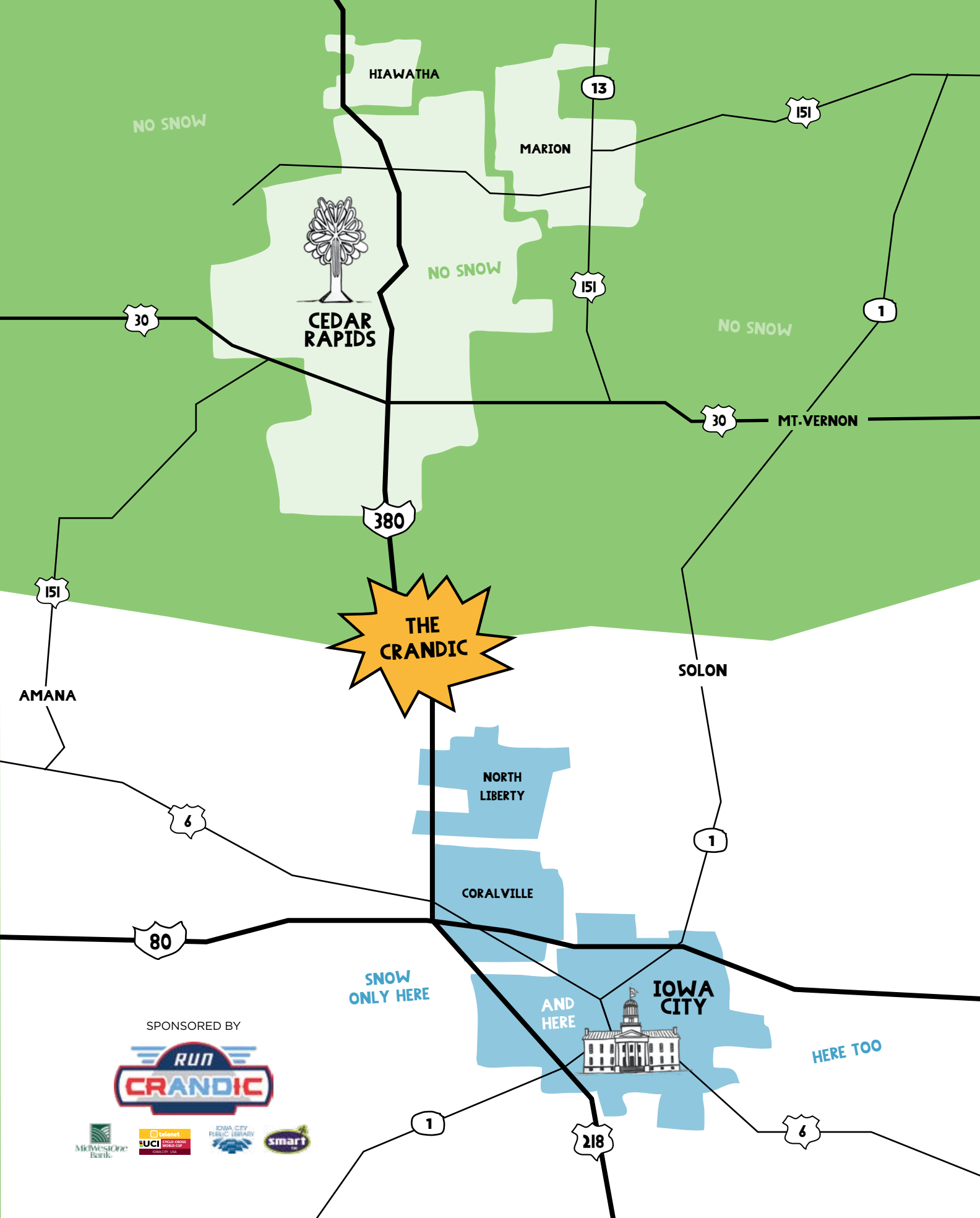
89 - Ad Index
91 - Astrology
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93 - Crossword
94 - Reader Survey

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YOUR VILLAGE



Zak Neumann / Little Village

Everyone is curious about the new benches on the Ped Mall. Are they an example of hostile architecture, designed to make life harder on the homeless? Or are they designed that way to be ADA-compliant? Or is there another line of thought behind this particular choice in benches? —*Nik, Iowa City, via email*

The answers, in brief (and in order), are *not intentionally, not exactly* and yes. For fuller answers, it's best to take the questions in reverse order.

As part of the ongoing Ped Mall Improvement Project, the 85 benches that were in place when the project began, which only had armrests at each end, are being replaced by 70 new ones, all of which have armrests in the middle as well. The 47 shorter benches have a single armrest in the center, and 23 longer benches have two armrests, creating three sections for people to sit in.

One of the improvement project's goals was increasing the amount of seating available on the Ped Mall, according to Iowa City Senior Civil Engineer Scott Sovers, who is overseeing the project.

"By and large, if you have a bench that doesn't have a center armrest, you find a lot of people aren't comfortable sitting on the bench when there's someone they don't know

already sitting on the bench," Sovers told *Little Village*.

The idea is that having an armrest in the middle creates separate spaces for people, and instead of ending up with one person per

bench, two or three will sit comfortably—separately, but together.

Along with new benches, there will be table and seats sets, tiered seating at the Weather Dance Fountain and seat walls throughout the Ped Mall.

"We're offering roughly 213 seating options for folks," Sovers said, "whereas before, we were at roughly 178."

Improving accessibility for everyone is also an official goal of the project. On social media some people have suggested that extra armrests are required by the American with

Disabilities Act (ADA). They're not.

Section 903 of the ADA compliance guidelines covers benches, and while it discusses such topics as the height of a bench seat

**ALTHOUGH ADA
GUIDELINES DON'T
CITE BENCH
ARMRESTS, THEY
ARE MENTIONED
IN ALMOST
EVERY ARTICLE
ON "HOSTILE
ARCHITECTURE."**

LV

Have a question about what's going on in your community? Ask *Little Village*. Submit your questions through the *Your Village* feature on our homepage, or email us at editor@littlevillagemag.com.

FUTILE WRATH

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

BY SAM LOCKE WARD

AN ONGOING COMIC SERIES IN WHICH SAM AND HIS FRIEND CHRIS ATTEND CAMPAIGN EVENTS IN THE ENDLESS MARCH LEADING INTO THE 2020 IOWA CAUCUSES IN AN EFFORT TO DOCUMENT THE #akem* IOWA EXPERIENCE.

IN THIS INSTALLMENT, CHRIS AND I ATTENDED THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANDREW YANG'S 'HUMANITY FIRST' TOUR EVENT IN IOWA CITY AT THE BLACK BOX THEATER IN THE IMU ON FRI. 11.16.18.



ANDREW YANG IS A TAIWANESE-AMERICAN TECH ENTREPRENEUR FROM N.Y.C. HE IS BEST KNOWN AS THE U.B.I. GUY.

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

YANG'S PLATFORM NOTABLY CALLS FOR EACH AMERICAN TO RECEIVE A \$1,000 CHECK EVERY MONTH TO OFFSET THE UNEMPLOYMENT THAT SHALL BE CAUSED BY THE IMPENDING AUTOMATION REVOLUTION AS ROBOTS TAKE OUR JOBS.

AFTER A BRIEF DETOUR WHERE WE GOT LOST IN THE BASEMENT OF THE IMU WHILE TRYING TO FIND AN OPEN COFFEE STAND, CHRIS AND I ARRIVED AT THE THEATER.



AS WE ENTERED THE THEATER, WE ARE GREETED BY A CAMPAIGN STAFFER NAMED CARLY WHO DIRECTS US TO A TABLE WITH 12 FALBO'S PIZZAS ON IT AND A BUNCH OF 2 LITERS OF SODA.



AFTER LOADING OUR PLATES FULL OF FREE PIZZA, WE TOOK A SEAT IN THE CIRCLE OF CHAIRS AS THE SMALL CROWD SLOWLY TRICKLED IN. IF YOU COULD GET OVER IT BEING AN AWKWARD POLITICAL EVENT, IT WAS KIND OF LIKE A BOMB-ASS B-DAY PARTY FOR A 10 YEAR OLD.



AT 6:11PM STAFFERS LIAM + CARLY ADDRESSED THE CROWD AND EXPLAINED THE CANDIDATE WAS RUNNING LATE. THEY GAVE A SPEECH ABOUT YANG. BY 6:35 PM IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY WERE KILLING TIME TIL HE GOT THERE.



NOT THAT I'M REALLY COMPLAINING, I WAS JUST RELIEVED WHEN THE CANDIDATE ARRIVED AT 6:41PM AND THE LOCAL WARM UP SPEAKERS BEGAN.



AND WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF WALKING IN THE DOOR, ANDREW YANG WAS ADDRESSING THE CROWD OF 48 PEOPLE. STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM, NO MICROPHONE.



YANG WAS AN ENGAGING SPEAKER AND I DID RATHER LIKE AND AGREE WITH HIS PROGRESSIVE PLATFORM.

- UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME
- MEDICARE FOR ALL
- BAN PRIVATE PRISONS
- LEGALIZE WEED
- COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS
- FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE WITH GEO ENGINEERING
- PRO-CHOICE
- OVERTURN CITIZENS UNITED

↑↑↑ ACTUALLY GOOD STUFF ↑↑↑

AS YANG WAS SPEAKING, THESE TWO COLLEGE AGE GOOBER'S WOULDN'T STOP TALKING OVER EVERYTHING.



CHRIS POLITELY ASKED THEM TO STOP.



POLITICS IS A PENDULUM AND THE OPPOSITE OF DONALD TRUMP IS AN ASIAN MAN WHO LIKES MATH.



IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE POLITICS ARE TOO EXCLUSIVE... I WANT TO NOTE THAT I SAT NEXT TO A PROMINENT JOHNSON COUNTY DEMOCRAT WHO SPENT THE MAJORITY OF THE EVENT WATCHING BASKETBALL ON THEIR PHONE AND FARTING LOUDLY.



AFTER THE EVENT, I CORNERED LIAM. I TRIED TO PICK HIS BRAIN ABOUT WHAT LIFE IS LIKE WORKING ON CAMPAIGNS. HE WOULD BARELY GET OFF MESSAGE ABOUT HIS CANDIDATE, THOUGH.



AFTER THE EVENT, I DROVE CHRIS BACK TO HIS HOUSE.

Y'KNOW CHRIS, I COULDN'T HELP BUT FIND IT PRETTY SAD THAT U.B.I. IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT US FROM AUTOMATION WHEN AUTOMATION SHOULD BE THE ONE THING THAT COULD LITERALLY TRANSFORM THE PLANET INTO A UTOPIA.



(between 17 and 19 inches off the ground) and whether a bench should offer back support (yes), it doesn't mention armrests at all.

Although ADA guidelines don't cite bench armrests, they are mentioned in almost every article on "hostile architecture," the term for designs that discourage the homeless from using a public space.

"This year, #hostilearchitecture is trending, with photos of park benches with armrests down the middle that can render them impossible for sleeping, boulders planted into former homeless gathering places, and sprinklers engineered in public spaces for the presumed purpose of watering squatters, not greenery," *Architectural Digest* wrote in March.

Discouraging people from stretching out on Ped Mall benches wasn't a consideration when the new design was selected, Sovers said. And the issue never came up during the three public input sessions prior to the start of the project, all of which featured illustrations of the new benches, and all of which *Little Village* attended.

"By and large, the feedback we got was very positive on the benches we selected," Sovers said. "There was never a time where anybody brought up concerns about the ability to lay down on the benches."

Still, it's understandable why people might suspect Iowa City was trying to quietly push the homeless out of the Ped Mall. In 2013, the city council passed new ordinances prohibiting people from lying down on Ped Mall or other downtown benches between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., or to store personal possessions in any outdoor public space downtown (for example, by keeping them in a shopping cart).

Supporters of the ordinances insisted they weren't about the excluding the homeless, but just aimed at ending certain unwanted behavior. During the council meeting when the ordinances were approved, supporters did acknowledge the homeless were virtually the only ones who engaged in that unwanted behavior, but still insisted the new rules weren't targeting the homeless.

Sovers noted the bench replacement on the Ped Mall already happened elsewhere downtown two years ago. During the 2016 improvement project on Washington Street, new benches with center armrests were installed.

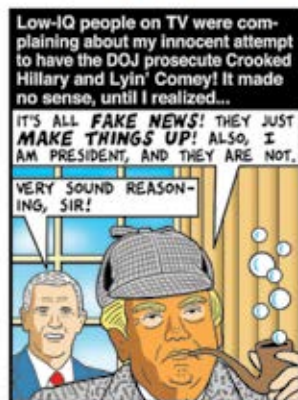
"As far as I know, no one has ever raised any objections about the design of those benches," he said. LV/

—Paul Brennan



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW





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BEST OF THE CRANDIC ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BEST DRAG PERFORMER OR TROUPE:

I.C. KINGS

“We’re just a bunch of weirdos performing with hair stuck to our faces in Iowa City. And that’s really cool,” says I.C. King Franky D. Lover. Beyond a touch of weirdness and fake facial hair, what does it take to be a king? Franky shared some tips.

Find (and dress) your character

“Each performer in the group has their own drag character. Some have very out-there fantastic props, choreography, makeup

or costumes; some go for humor, some go for sexy. I got a lot of inspiration from Madonna. She’s one person but she has all these different looks and personas.

“If you’re starting off and want to be a drag king, but don’t often dress in a way that’s masculine, you might go to the thrift store and get a pair of masculine pants or a suit jacket. It actually makes you feel different and that gets you moving differently.”

Pick your song

“What are you performing to? What song? Is it a mix of songs? There are times when you want a pop-y boy band song, or hit up the country music, or choose alternative rock stuff. I like to perform a variety, but

there are kings out there that have a niche.”

Plan your performance—sort of

“You have to have a plan, at least the broad strokes of it. The best thing is to come up with an idea, think it through, practice it. Then give it a shot. Don’t plan it all out—there are times when you want some extra breathing room to take a tip or smile at someone. You want to care about what you’re doing but you don’t want to plan every second.

“Nerves happen for brand new people and performance veterans, too. Finding a way to calm your nerves or use that nervous energy in your performance is a big thing. Psych yourself up and go, ‘You can do it, man!’” **LV**



Zak Neumann / Little Village

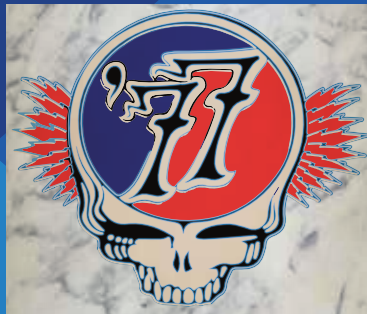
"Showmanship at its finest."
—Sasha A.

"Nice to see the drag queen
paradigm turned on its head, as it
were." —Douglas B.

"Wylie Guyote is a hottie and hilari-
ous at the same time."
—Chris D.

"They combine activism, comedy,
theater and so much more. Iowa
City is very lucky to have this drag
king troupe. There aren't many in
the country and the ones I've seen
aren't as good as the I.C. Kings."
—Sara T.

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Zak Neumann / Little Village

BEST LIVE BAND:**PORK TORNAOES**

"They're a fun cover band with a twist all their own." —*Jenni G.*

SHOUT-OUTS!**FLASH IN A PAN**

"They make me proud to live in Iowa City. They are as good as they come, and they are always supporting the local community ... but I worry for the day the rest of the world discovers their talent and they're taken away from here." —*Becca*

IN THE MOUTH OF RADNESS

"Between their skins-pounder's acrobatic stick work and bassist's Tasmanian devil stage presence, Radness is like watching Dr. Teeth & the Electric Mayhem on meth. Is it punk? Is it thrash? Who cares? It's awesome." —*Alfred D.M.*

DAVE ZOLLO

"After decades of playing live, David still brings warmth and energy to the stage that one would expect from someone just getting started. His songwriting and piano skills are matched only by his kind and enthusiastic demeanor. He's got a kick-ass band, too." —*Brian J.*

ELIZABETH MOEN

"Elizabeth Moen never disappoints, from a tiny little stage at the Lincoln Wine Bar to the main stage at RAG-BRAI. She has honed her craft and keeps getting better." —*Katrina S.A.*

MUSTARD-IN-LAW

"They deliver a surreal Dada-ist performance based on sound collages, and backing videos that they create. There is no other local act like them at all." —*Sean J.*

BEST MUSICIAN OVERALL:**KEVIN
"B.F." BURT**

"Oh, come on. There is no explanation necessary. He radiates music when breathing." —*Timothy F.C.*

"He appeals to all ages with his beautiful music and personality." —*Terri*

"Kevin won a major blues award in Memphis last year, and I just love his soulful voice. The musicians who back him are always top-notch." —*Jennifer R.*

"He's beyond comparison." —*Chad P.*

BEST ARTS PRESENTER:**ENGLERT THEATRE**

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"What even needs to be said? The festivals, the community partnerships, the creativity. They're so much more than a stage, they're a community institution." —*Becca*

"[Englert Executive Director] Andre Perry is a boss at gathering people from every nook and cranny of the state. He makes those that are out-of-reach reachable and puts them in a light that is so profound and captivating." —*Lauren H.*

"[Englert Development Director] Katie Roche is like the doyenne of arts in Iowa City. From her days with the James Gang to her work with the Englert, she has a wide-open style and an all-embracing arts aesthetic." —*Douglas B.*



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BEST FESTIVAL: **IOWA ARTS FESTIVAL**

Iowa City, hosted by Summer of the Arts, summerofthearts.org

"Arts Festival and the year round gallery walks remind us that we live in a unique and vibrant city that supports the arts." —Tara M.

"There is always something fun to enjoy for all ages. I love the music, the activities for young children and the community feel to the festival."
—Mary M.

SHOUT-OUTS!

MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL IOWA CITY

"No other festival does as good a job of curating a diverse selection of performers and events as the Mission Creek team. Cutting edge newcomers, legacy acts that haven't rested on their laurels—Mission Creek cuts a wide swath through the worlds of music, literature, performance and food. And they pull it all off by using Iowa City's existing, iconic venues. Few things make me happier than hopping from event to event in downtown Iowa City in early April on the cusp of spring." —Mark H.

CAMP EUFORIA, LONE TREE

"A wide variety of musical styles from local, regional and national artists. You can't beat friends, camping and great music on Jerry's farm. Euforquestra has been putting on the best party in the area for 15 years!" —Philip R.

WITCHING HOUR, IOWA CITY

"Affordable to attend, but the experience carries with you long after the event. I'm always making connections or sharing things learned or inspired from the event months and years after it has passed." —Becca

BEST STAND UP COMIC:

SPENCER LOUCKS

"He's as funny as he is uncomfortable."
—Seamus D.

Newton, Iowa native Spencer Loucks started doing stand-up comedy six years ago.

What's the first joke you ever told that made someone (other than yourself) laugh? I remember in kindergarten, I was reading from an ABCs book and was inserting swear words into them. Like, "A is for..." and then a bad word. Pretty low-brow stuff, but also I was 6 at the time.

Which is your true love: writing or performing? I prefer writing but they both are quite fun. Performing in front of people gets you an immediate reaction, good or bad, so there's something to be said for that.

What's your favorite style of humor to perform? Self-deprecating humor is probably my favorite to perform. When you're making fun of yourself you never have to worry about making anyone else feel bad or wonder if you went too far.

How much does a sense of place play into what we find funny? Certain crowds/places definitely find different jokes funny or unfunny. Not only can it vary from city to city but just even different places around town. A joke might play great at a specific show or mic and then you think it's amazing and then the next time you do it it can totally bomb. I find that aspect of stand-up really interesting.

What's your three-point bucket list of career goals as a comedian? Oh, gosh. I don't know if I have any. That's OK, right? Like, even if I did, I'd hate to look back at this article in like 10 years and see my "goals" and not have achieved any of them. I think I'm making this answer way more depressing than your question wanted it to be. I apologize. I guess I'd really love to have my own TV show. Yeah, Let's go with that. LV/



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BEST RADIO PERSONALITY:

CHARITY NEBBEHOST, "TALK OF IOWA"
ON IOWA PUBLIC RADIO

"Charity Nebbe—the sound of Iowa."
—Bridget W.

"She is delightful, incisive and really contributes to the local discourse." —Will S.

Charity Nebbe grew up in Cedar Falls listening to Iowa Public Radio and dreaming, she says, of becoming "the next Cokie Roberts." She has hosted IPR's Talk of Iowa program since 2010.

Do you have a favorite interview from the last year? One that stands out is, I interviewed Gideon Kidd from Cedar Falls. He was 9 when I talked to him. He has a Twitter handle, I've Pet That Dog. Two of my three dogs—the two with manners—came to work that day so Gideon could pet them. It was such a fun Iowa story and he's such a bright, open-hearted kid, it was a real thrill to have that moment on the air.

How do you keep coming up with ideas for the show? I think that once you become a talk show producer or a talk show host, you can't actually turn that part of your brain off ... The problem isn't having enough ideas, it's having too many and needing to distill them down. I think we are all doing that all the time.

How do you stay neutral in the current political environment? That's the hardest part of my job. And I don't cover politics, which in some ways makes it even harder. I mean, I have a lot of strong opinions but I can't voice them and I can't participate, other than voting. That's difficult, yes. That almost led me to leave journalism when I was younger.

Is covering food your first love? It is not! That was sort of an accident. I grew up in a family where cooking was a hated chore, but I've developed an appreciation for it. I think the best part about it for me is just how innovative people are being in Iowa in the local food system. They are all such interesting, committed, idealistic individuals that it's really fun to tell their stories. The fact I host a cooking show on public television [IPTV's *Iowa Ingredient*] people assume I must be like the Martha Stewart of Iowa, and that could not be further from the truth. I'm good at standing next to people and asking them questions. That's my skill set. **LV**

BEST TV PERSONALITY:
BETH MALICKI
ANCHOR, KCRG

"She is candid, professional and has the best pick 'ems." —Katie G.

"I still remember during the flood of 2008 when she and Bruce Aune stayed on air to keep viewers up to date with information—and even humorously commented that she hadn't showered in awhile! I felt like she was there for her community during that scary situation, which was reassuring." —Alex F.

BEST PLACE TO DANCE:
STUDIO 13

13 S Linn St, Iowa City
sthirteen.com

"I don't think you can not dance there." —Josh G.

"Every bad night can be remedied by dancing at Studio." —Jacqueline B.

"They are so welcoming to everyone. I don't feel judged no matter what I am wearing or what I weigh." —Nicole C.

"Nothing like watching drag queens tear up the stage to prepare for a great night of dancing." —Zoe H.

"Not only are the lights and music booming, but the people welcome you in to just be you and dance freely." —Taylor C.



Thanks for voting the
Iowa Arts Festival the
Best of CRANDIC!



Thanks to Kim Schillig, Lepic-Kroeger Realtor, for supporting
this ad and the Summer of the Arts Accessibility Shuttle!

Devin Smith



BEST MUSICAL MEMORY:

KISHI BASHI

In music festivals you can hardly hope to please all people even some of the time, but Kishi Bashi's performance at the 2017 Mission Creek Festival was one of those rare shows. When the band unplugged their instruments and left the stage to perform an encore from the middle of the theater, the house lights went up and everybody gathered around, including dozens of children looking up to the musicians with awestruck faces. It was a great musical memory for all of us and something those kids will never forget. **LV**

BEST PUBLIC ART:

COEXIST

BY SAYURI SASAKI HEMANN AND
TEENS WITH UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH

220 E Washington St, Iowa City

One cold day in December 2017, Thomas Agran (a.k.a. sous chef) reached out to UAY to partner on the biggest, happiest, most dreamy mural of all time with their youth artists. He then recruited Sayuri to be the captain of this dreamship. Sayuri and youth collected many, many ideas to contribute to the IDEA BANK (#ideabank), to be used for creating the design of *Coexist*. She then formed a dream team, a.k.a. #muraldreamteam, with 11 amazing youth artists, and the rest, my dearest friends, is history. **LV**

—*Ined the Storyteller Bird (far right of mural), via Sayuri*



via ICDD

BEST MOVIE THEATER:

FILMSCENE

118 E College St, Ste. 101,
Iowa City, icfilmscene.org

"I love this place. They have the best selection of new and indie and artistic films, plus all of the kitschy, silly, guilty-pleasure oldies mixed in. Also, where else can you grab a beer or wine and watch a film on the big screen?!" —*Will S.*

"The place just makes you feel part of the community. They go the extra mile."
—*Josh G.*

"They always are playing the best of the best. Nothing like getting some Trumpet Blossom trail mix or coconut oil popcorn and seeing a movie that will change my perspective."
—*Bridget W.*

"Sure, they show great movies, but they're also

Zak Neumann / Little Village



engaging patrons in movies: kids learning animation, directors talking about their documentaries and Mr. Rogers bringing neighbors together." —*Nick B.*

◀ WEIRDEST PUBLIC ART: EMOTICONS

BY JOHN CERNEY

Located along I-80 E in Iowa City, on the property of Harvest Farm and Preserve

"The more bedraggled they become, the more WTF they are." —*Bruce B.*

"More of this large-scale oddness, please."
—*Colleen K.*



**BEST PERFORMING
ARTS PRESENTER**



THANK YOU



**BEST MUSICAL MEMORY
KISHI BASHI
MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL 2017**

englert.org

missioncreekfestival.com

witchinghourfestival.com



BEST OF THE CRANDIC COMMUNITY

BEST LIBRARY:

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

123 S Linn St, Iowa City, icpl.org

"For those of us with kids, it's a great resource of sanity." —*Alexander L.*

"You can check out artwork—need we say more? It's a fun place to go and has great materials and amazing staff." —*Tara M.*

SHOUT-OUTS!

CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Its design allows for all Cedar Rapidsians to gather, whether to check out a book, read the paper, play the piano out front, buy a coffee or relax and look over the Cedar Rapids green square." —*Bridget W.*

CORALVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

"1) Friendly, helpful staff
2) Beautiful, easy-to-navigate layout

Jav Ducker / Little Village

3) FREE PARKING!!!" —*Joe M.*

THE NATIONAL CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

"The National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library is a unique and valuable resource for the serious genealogical researcher as well as for those for whom their immigrant ancestry is a newfound curiosity." —*Mary A.B.*

BEST ELECTED OFFICIAL:



STACEY WALKER AND MAZAHIR SALIH

Linn County Supervisor Stacey Walker and at-large Iowa City Council member Mazahir Salih ask each other a question.

Q *Walker:* I often feel as if I have two constituencies: One is comprised of people of color and the other is the rest of the people in my district. It's hard to explain to voters; people get really upset because they just don't understand the obligation to a group of people who have traditionally been underrepresented at every level of government. Do you find yourself in a similar position? If so, how do you help voters understand your obligations to communities of color?

A *Salih:* Since I first ran, I said I represent all Iowa City regardless of if you're born in Iowa City or if you travelled the globe to get to Iowa City like me. That's *why* I ran: to represent the people who are underrepresented. They are the people I'd been working with. I feel what they feel, I feel their suffering. I've always said diversity on the council is really great so we can represent different communities, and I think voters respect that.

Q *Salih:* I've found it's easier to get constituents to vote for you than to get three fellow council members to vote the same way as you on something. Do you experience this in the Board of Supervisors?

A *Walker:* I've been quite fortunate to have colleagues on the Board who are generally understanding of the policies and issues that I find important. My biggest battles have come from convincing other elected officials in municipal government to see the wisdom in supporting programs and initiatives that help the socially vulnerable ... As with all things, with time and an earnest commitment to progress, we will get better. **LV**



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BEST MUSEUM:

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

In Macbride Hall on the UI Pentacrest, Iowa City, mnh.uiowa.edu

"Despite growing up in Iowa City, before high school, I was blithely unaware of the cultural juggernaut that is the UI except for the dental school and the natural history museum. They had a whale hung from the ceiling. There was an intricate island ecosystem, including with exotic avian cacophony. There were more strange artifacts and stuffed fauna than I could have imagined ever existed. Some, like their dodo, don't [exist] anymore. It's still our best museum in town."

—Daniel L.D.

"Anytime I take people from out of town here they will always utter the phrase 'holy shit.'" —Seamus D.

"Giant sloth FTW forever." —Brian J.



Tom Jorgensen via uiowa.edu

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART

"Since the flood of 2008, without a museum building, they've done an amazing job of staying present in our city and state, through small gallery exhibits in the Iowa Memorial Union and FilmScene, lecture series at the UI, as well as through traveling exhibits throughout Iowa and in the international art world." —Kay I.

THE CEDAR RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

"Super cool permanent collections, plus awesome temporary exhibits like the Hopper exhibit." —Jennifer R.

BEST NEIGHBOR: IN MEMORIAM

KURT FRIESE

Love thy neighbor. Kurt Michael Friese—who died suddenly on Oct. 26, 2018, at the age of 54—lived these words, even if it wasn't the easiest path to take.

Johnson County Supervisors are rarely household names, but Friese's web of friends, community members and political supporters ensured that whether one agreed with his stances or not, he was well-known and respected.

The list of his contributions to the Johnson County community is quite long. Among the roles he played: chef, teacher, writer, activist, listener and—of course—neighbor. Friese was sworn in as a chair on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 3, 2017. He is perhaps best known as a chef and former co-owner of the downtown Iowa City restaurant Devotay. Friese was instrumental in bringing the slow food movement to Iowa City.

Friese graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids and later trained and taught at the New England Food Institute. He served as editor and publisher of Edible Iowa River Valley, and authored multiple books, most recently *A Cook's Journey: Slow Food in the Heartland*. He contributed work to *Little Village* magazine from 2003 to 2008 and the political blog Bleeding Heartland from 2016 to 2018. Friese was a supporter of the Unitarian Universalist Society and Iowa City Pride, marching with the UUS in the 2018 Iowa City Pride parade.

In 2013, Kurt worked to train Shelter House residents in the Culinary Starts program, which aims to teach job skills to prepare its unemployed trainees for work in the food industry. Ever present, ever persistent, ever striving, Friese lived his vision of working for justice from the ground up: Sustainable food and agriculture leads to a healthy community, economy and environment. He poured love into his work.

In his obituary, author Elissa Altman quoted Friese's email to her after the 2016 election. "Love and understanding are the only weapons against fear," he wrote. Thank goodness people like Kurt Michael Friese show us how to use love as a weapon. This world needs more weapons like love. LV/

—Melody Dworak



courtesy of the Friese family

via ncsml.org

► NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

"In these times, when consumers and our experiences are funneled toward homogenized monoculture, this distinctive museum is a must. To look deeply at the past and our particular joys, sorrows, art and contributions adds a much-needed richness to our lives." —Thea E.

"It's amazing to know that we have a national museum in southeast Iowa of all places! It's a beautiful building with so much to offer." —Kaitlin S.





To the Iowa City community, all the great independent businesses, non-profits, cultural venues, committed financial supporters and our fantastic team...

THANK YOU!



103 E College St, Iowa City | 319-354-0863 | downtowniowacity.com



BEST ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE:

NATALIA ESPINA

Natalia Espina is the co-founder of the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project. In a years-long process to gain her U.S. citizenship, Espina was briefly undocumented, which she said helped motivate her to become an activist and guerrero (warrior).

“[At the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project] we provide a direct response, not necessarily a long-term answer, to the uptick in collateral arrests and immigration raids or sweeps under the Trump administration. Freedom from jail is related to an individual’s ability to access \$1,500 and upward at the snap of their fingers. The immigration bond and detention system, and lack of oversight within it, is intended to unfairly punish poor people and people of color.

“Thus far, we’ve bonded out 34 individuals from across central and eastern Iowa, paying a total of \$159,500. The value of their freedom goes far beyond the average of \$5,000 per person gift.

“Recently, we heard back from the second participant who we helped bail out in summer 2017. After being released on immigration bond, he was able to connect to legal representation. He now has a work permit, is gainfully employed, has his driver’s license and purchased a vehicle. The likelihood is this individual will now be able to remain in the U.S. and will continue to work on regularizing his immigration status. In just over one year since his release from immigration jail, he has already made some massive strides. This is just one example of why we do the work we do. There is no price tag that can be placed on this tremendous success and positive outcome.” LV/



Zak Neumann / Little Village



HOW TO FIGHT OPPRESSION

INCLUDE & LOVE people of all ethnicities, genders, orientations, identities, national origins



Reclaiming spirituality for progressives
New Song Episcopal Church Sundays 10 AM


www.newsongepiscopal.org

A man with short dark hair, wearing a brown blazer over a grey t-shirt, is sitting at a desk. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. On the desk in front of him are several papers, a smartphone, and a pen. The background is a light-colored wall with a window.

*Thank you all
for supporting
independent and
relevant news outlets
like Little Village.*

—STACEY WALKER

LINN COUNTY SUPERVISOR

 @swalker06



“We work in the dark. We do what we can. We give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art.” —Henry James

HARDEST FIGHTING UNION:

COGS

120 N Dubuque St #210, Iowa City,
cogs.org

"Uniting grad students since 1996
and working on top of their studies!"
—Emily L.

"COGS, baby! We went to the state
capitol and fuckin' lobbied when they
tried to take away our unions, and
then they sort of did, but COGS is still
fighting and I respect the hell out of
the people who lead and volunteer."
—Emily M.

Full name: Campaign to Organize
Graduate Students, UE Local 896
Founded in: 1996
Main goals: Collective bargaining with
the University of Iowa Board of Regents
to secure fair wages, work hours, sick
leave, paid leave, safety, training, human
rights, equipment and other rights and
benefits for graduate student employees.
President: Laura Szech



Zak Neumann / Little Village

Vice-President: Kenneth Elliott
Big move of 2018: New restrictions on
collective bargaining passed by the Iowa
legislature in 2017 limit COGS's ability
to negotiate things like supplemental
pay and health insurance. They also
threatened to end COGS's status as the
bargaining unit for UI's grad students
—the union had to rally an absolute ma-
jority of the nearly 2,000 UI teaching and

research assistants to vote "yes" to retain
COGS as their bargaining representative
in an October election. (If an employee
didn't cast a ballot, it would automatically
be counted as a "no" vote.) After weeks of
reaching out to grad students by mail, text
and in person, COGS's campaign was suc-
cessful: 1,559, or 80 percent, of graduate
students voted to recertify COGS through at
least 2020. **LV** /

BEST LOCAL NON-PROFIT OR CHARITY:

THE CRISIS CENTER OF JOHNSON COUNTY

1121 S Gilbert Ct, Iowa City,
jccrisiscenter.org

"This organization has served the Iowa
City area for over 50 years and con-
tinues to expand their reach to help
those in need. The Food Bank and
Mobile Food Pantries help those in
food deserts and offer a no-questions-
asked food bank where clients can
choose their own food." —Bobby J.

"We are a better community for the work
that is done at the Crisis Center. The food
bank and the counseling services literally
save people's lives." —Mary M.

"The Crisis Center does the most good
for the widest amount of people."
—Roger W.H.



Zak Neumann / Little Village

IOWA HARM REDUCTION COALITION

"Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition is
setting the bar pretty high for local
nonprofits. Their impact is incredible
and the people who keep it up and
running are AMAZING."
—Nicole Y.

THE BIKE LIBRARY

"Iowa City Bike Library: keeping bikes
out of the landfill by refurbishing or
recycling donated bikes. Their goal of
'more butts on bikes' contributes to a
more civilized, less car-centric com-
munity." —Anne D.

CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

"If you haven't been to their Lip Sync
for Learning fundraiser, you haven't
lived." —Scott R.

◀ MOMS DEMAND ACTION—IOWA

"They work so hard to stand for gun
legislation and promote the middle
ground position of recognizing the
Second Amendment and advocating
for laws that will keep us safer. The
Be SMART program in particular is an
invaluable resource for keeping kids/
adolescents safe. This Moms group
shows up everywhere and is willing to
share their message across Corridor
communities." —Holly S.



Thank you!



**Remember: democracy
is participation.**

- Attend city council meetings.
- Stay informed and stay engaged.
- Write and call your council members.

—Mazahir Salih

IOWA CITY COUNCIL  @MAZAHIRIOWACITY



Zak Neumann / Little Village

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR SINGLES AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

THE CZECH VILLAGE/ NEW BOHEMIA MAIN STREET DISTRICT

The Sinclair meatpacking plant opened on Cedar Rapids' South 3rd Street in **1872**, attracting Czech immigrants with its ample job opportunities. Within a decade, churches and storefronts began popping up in the area, forming a "Little Bohemia."

The local Czech-Slovak Protective Society opened CSPS Hall on the corner of 1st Avenue and 3rd Street in June **1891**, establishing a cultural center in the neighborhood.

In **1975**, the Czech Heritage Foundation officially dubbed the 16th Avenue SW area of the neighborhood as "Czech Village." By **2000**, the South End was called "New Bohemia," with locals focused on preserving its artistic and cultural heritage.

In **1991**, the nonprofit Legion Arts settled into the historic CSPS Hall.

On Oct. 21, **1995**, Bill Clinton joined fellow presidents Václav Havel of the Czech Republic and Michal Kováč of the Slovak Republic in Cedar Rapids to dedicate the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML).

The flood of **2008** devastated the neighborhood, including nearly all businesses and residences. Many never recovered, but those that did, along with nonprofit organizations and new developers, began to rebuild (and rebrand) the area.

The Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was formed in May **2009** with a mission to "breathe economic life into a historic area of Cedar Rapids," according to the district's website.

Today, the district offers robust shopping, dining, art and tourist attractions. The area is home to NewBo City Market, the fully refurbished CSPS Hall, NCSML, the African American Museum of Iowa and much more. **LV** /



Zak Neumann / Little Village

▲ BEST HISTORIC BUILDING: OLD CAPITOL BUILDING IOWA CITY

"It is the icon of Iowa City, symbol of our allegiance to wisdom and education over politics and power. Old Brick deserves honorable mention, but no edifice can hold a column to Old Cap." —Daniel L.D.

"It's a majestic material reminder of the university's and state's origins." —Syndy C.

"It is beautifully designed, well maintained and full of history." —L. A.

"It is integral to the identity of Iowa City." —Susan C.



v/a brucemore.org

SHOUT-OUTS!

▲ BRUCEMORE MANSION

"Super cool gardens, an awesome old Victorian mansion and fun events on the expansive lawn." —Jennifer R.

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

"A beautiful building inside and out. The Grant Wood stained glass is spectacular. The exhibits are very worthwhile, and the ballroom is a magnificent room!" —Carole G.

THANK YOU!



The Pentacrest Museums are honored to be your choice for **2 CRANDIC** awards this year.

BEST Historical Building:
Old Capitol Museum

BEST Museum:
UI Museum of Natural History



**ADMISSION
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Sunday 1p-5p**

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@ui.pentacrest.museums



The University of Iowa
Pentacrest Museums

/
The University of Iowa
Museum of Natural History

BEST GREEN BUILDING PROJECT:



INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER

5300 Otis Rd SE, Cedar Rapids, indiancreeknaturecenter.org

Amazing Space: The solar panels in Indian Creek's Amazing Space helped the center achieve a Net Zero Energy certification from 2017-18, meaning the renewable sources served all the center's energy needs and then some (like, 94 tons of coal worth of excess energy).

Water treatment: Their Wetland Wastewater Treatment System uses no chemicals or energy. Wastewater from sinks and toilets travel from a septic tank to two cells where plant roots (including cattails and wildflowers) help clean the water underground. Bonus: These cells are lovely to look at and serve as animal habitats.

Rain garden: The center works to keep run-off out of Indian Creek by trading asphalt and concrete for permeable, surprisingly sturdy grassy paving. A permeable chipped limestone is used for paths. Rainwater is collected in both the center's rain garden full of native plants and its 65-gallon rainwater collection device, nicknamed "Moby," which recycles the water for gardening. **LV**



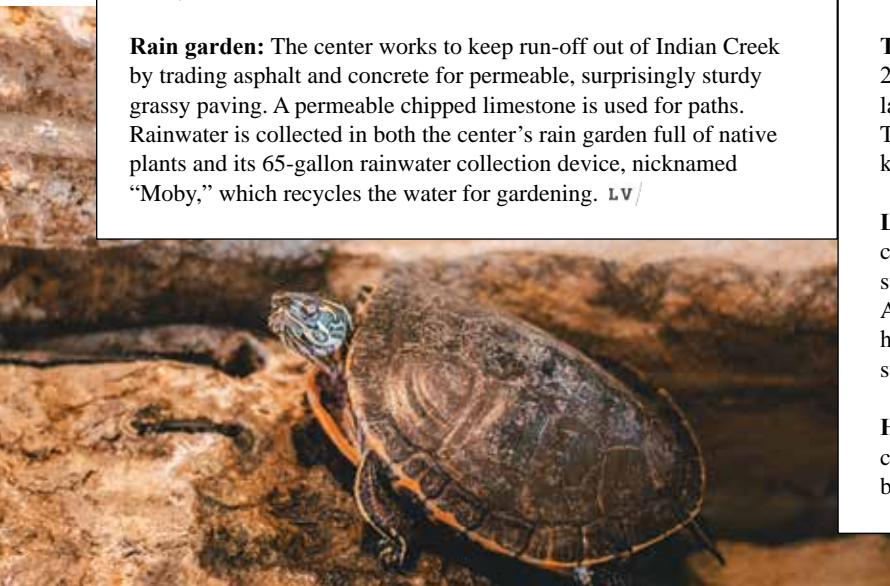
CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

450 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, crlibrary.org

The roof: Along with serving as a public patio, CRPL's 20,000-square-foot "green roof" is outfitted with layer upon layer of material designed to absorb 100 percent of rainwater. This water nourishes the vegetation planted on the patio and keeps water from flooding storm sewers.

Lighting: CRPL "harvests daylight" with plenty of energy-efficient, strategically located windows utilizing the light from the sun while avoiding glare on the library's tables and computers. Automated shades can sense the intensity of the light, and overhead lighting fixtures automatically dim or turn off when the sun is doing the lighting for them.

HVAC system: The CRPL employs a geothermal heat exchange, consuming around a third of the energy the old library building used. **LV**



Jav Ducker / Little Village

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR FAMILIES: LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD, IOWA CITY

"The Longfellow neighborhood in Iowa City is well known for welcoming diversity, political awareness, safety, shade, school and being generally woke. I love my neighbors but I'm jealous of the Longfellow neighborhood." —Daniel L.D.

"Longfellow has a nice sense of community, the Front Porch Music Festival and cute houses." —Ariane P.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT: DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY

BEST POWER COUPLE: NANCY AND CRAIG WILLIS

"This longtime Iowa City couple have been among the biggest contributors to our nonprofit organizations in the community. They are activists and always willing to share their resources with those who need it the most." —Mary M.



▲ BEST BUSINESS SLOGAN: RAYGUN, "THE GREATEST STORE IN THE UNIVERSE"

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132 E Washington St, Iowa City
raygunsite.com

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- Phoebe Martin



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REALTY



BEST OF THE CRANDIC HEALTH & RECREATION

BEST PLACE TO EXPERIENCE NATURE:

MACBRIDE NATURE RECREATION AREA

2095 Mehaffey Bridge Rd NE, Solon

Jordan Sellergren



SHOUT-OUTS!

▲ HICKORY HILL PARK

"Hickory Hill Park is a little oasis in the city. Each season brings new views, animals and experiences." —Tara M.

KENT PARK

"It has outstanding restored and native prairie, as well as beautiful wetlands and wooded areas." —L.A.

WOODPECKER TRAIL

"The Woodpecker Trail is always a good time. You can continue along the river or climb down to the banks. The slight elevation makes you think you're floating in a canopy of trees." —Alexander L.

TERRY TRUEBLOOD RECREATION AREA

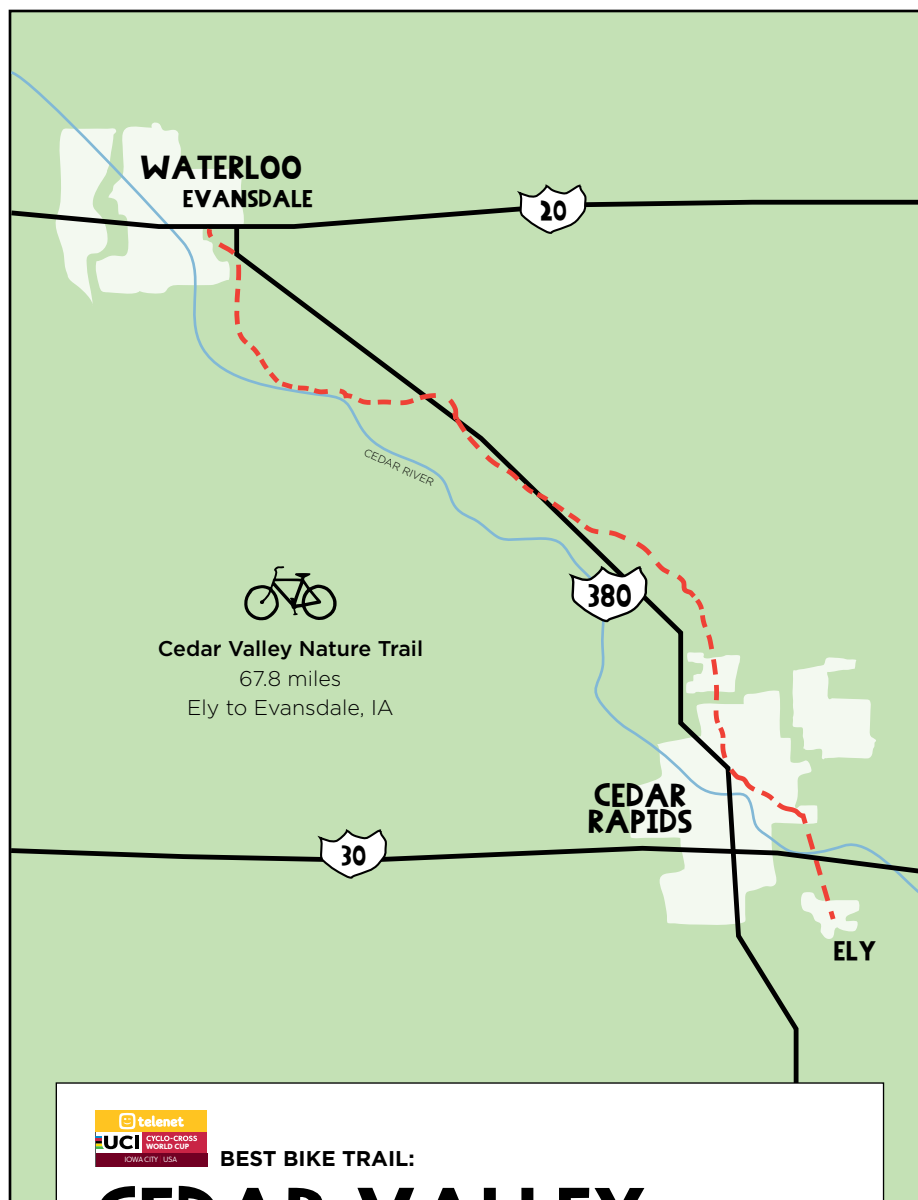
"From the dock, the walking path or the water—a truly idyllic local escape from the city." —Syndy C.



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BEST BIKE TRAIL:

CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL

cedarvalleynaturetrail.com

Trail length: 67.8 miles**Location:** Stretches from Ely to Evansdale, covering Linn, Buchanan, Black Hawk and Benton counties**Surface type:** Asphalt, gravel**Used for:** Hiking, running, biking, in-line skating, cross-country skiing**The scenery:** The Cedar River, forests, creeks, farmland, prairie campgrounds (McFarlane Park and Blackhawk Park)**Other features:** 10 trailheads, 15 parking areas, 10 restrooms, 12 drinking fountains**Opened in:** Spring 2017, when Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Cedar River Trail and parts of the Hoover Nature Trail were connected **LV**

BEST GYM:

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CAMPUS RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

309 S Madison St, Iowa City
recserv.uiowa.edu/facilities/campus-recreation-wellness-center

"The UI Campus Recreation and Wellness Center is heads above every other gym in the area. It has a wealth of equipment—both cardio and strength—in a bright, open space. I have never experienced any suggestions of judgment there." —*Nick K.*

"Love the fitness classes provided by this place. The instructors are really nice and good at what they are doing." —*Qianyi S.*



Ellie Yap

▲ BEST FITNESS INSTRUCTOR:

SIMONE FERNANDES

"She is a zumba instructor at the CRWC and her classes are always a great and positive environment to be apart of. She motivates all of the people in her class. Her teaching style is effortless and easy to follow!"

—*Grace G.*

"She is so, so, so kind and energetic and is always smiling throughout her classes!" —*Bernardo D.*

"As an avid Zumba goer, I get quite picky when it comes to my instructor. When I first went to Simone's class,

Thank
you!



Jaime Nevins, LMT
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319.481.2524 www.backtogethernessmassage.com

I was not sure what to expect as she was brand new in this field. An hour later of dancing, smiling, laughing and sweating—I could not have been any more pleased. Simone allows for every single individual to feel accepted and complete every workout/dance to the best of their ability, completely free of judgement. In addition, she creates an environment that is fun, energetic and lively to provide for the maximum amount of personal gain as well as personal development. Simone has only been an instructor for a few months, but she is already taking over the field and I cannot wait to see her grow in years to come. Thanks for making Zumba possible for everyone, Simone!” —*Charlie E.*

“Not only is she a great dancer, she also tries to bring diversity into her choreography by incorporating Bollywood-style dances, which makes dancing with her super fun!” —*Qianyi S.*

BEST LGBTQ HANGOUT: STUDIO 13

13 S Linn St, Iowa City
thirteen.com

BEST HOME AWAY FROM HOME: GEORGE'S BUFFET

312 E Market St, Iowa City
facebook.com/georgesbuffet.iowacity

SHOUT-OUTS!

CRITICAL HIT GAMES

“The little game store has built a ground-up community of gamers and hobbyists who welcome everyone and make sure everyone has a good time. The staff are constantly working to make everyone feel safe and comfortable.” —*Oliver P.*

“Whenever I’m there I’m always comfortable, happy and feel like I get to be myself; basically the perfect home away from home!” —*Steven D.K.*

CAFE CREMA

“It’s like your grandma’s living room with beverages and comfort snacks.” —*Katy B.*

DEADWOOD

“The Deadwood, for the memories. I used to hang out with a fair number of pinball wizards (and aspiring alcoholics). I still have embarrassing pics from the ’80s photo booth (mostly due to my terrible taste in hairstyles).” —*Sara L.*

JAVA HOUSE

“My husband and I consider this our second living room.” —*Pam*



Jordan Selbergren / Little Village

▲ BEST PLACE TO READ A BOOK: PRAIRIE LIGHTS CAFE

15 S Dubuque St, Iowa City
prairielights.com

“There are lots of other people around you reading books, inspiring you to stick with it instead of getting distracted by technology.” —*Elizabeth B.*



BEST PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE: CLINTON STREET SOCIAL CLUB

18 1/2 S Clinton St, Iowa City
clintonstreetsocial.com



BEST PLACE TO BREAK UP: BROTHERS BAR AND GRILL

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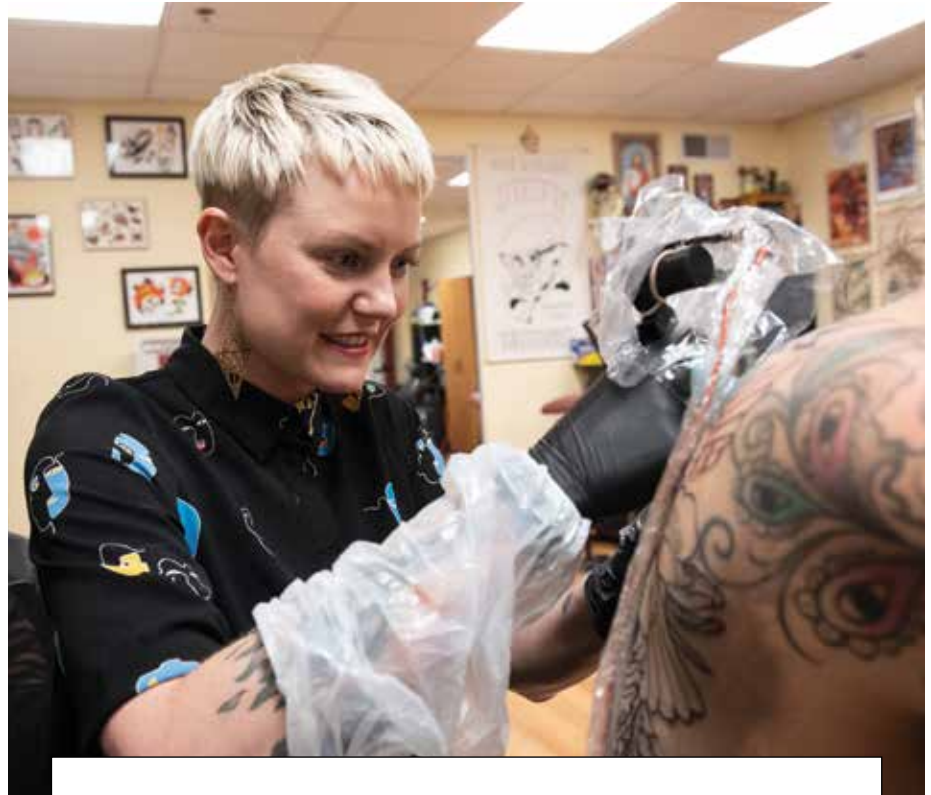
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BEST TATTOO ARTIST:

ANNE MARSH

IOWA CITY TATTOO

393 E College St, Iowa City, iowacitytattoo.com

Anne Marsh has worked as an artist at Iowa City Tattoo (formerly Nemesis) in downtown Iowa City since 2009.

How did you decide to become a tattoo artist? When I was a kid I was perpetually drawing, painting, working with clay or plaster or fabric, or anything I could get my hands on. It was kind of a weird path to becoming a tattooer, but ultimately I fell in love with the craft ... It has probably been the steepest learning curve I've encountered, both creatively and professionally.

What are your favorite tattoos to design and execute? My affinity for the traditional American tattoo style was a little bit of a surprise since it was so different from my usual artistic approach. At this point I really like anything to do with flora or fauna and particularly bringing in motifs found in traditional folk arts. I have been super happy that I've gotten asked to do a few portraits—either people or pets!

How are you able to relate to clients and make their vision a reality?

It's important to me that I work in such a way that I make sure people know they are safe and will have their voices heard. It's also pretty vital to be an active part of the community and to use the space we have to give back as much as possible, as with our Emma Goldman fundraiser.

I think women and LGBT+ folks are definitely using tattoos as tools of empowerment. Tattoos can be a badge or a signifier, as well as a powerful way to practice body autonomy. I think it means even more to feel comfortable exerting that power in a space that has been traditionally cishet male dominated. LV/



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Jordan Sellegren / Little Village

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BEST CHEF:

ANDY SCHUMACHER

Owner and chef at Cobble Hill Eatery and Dispensary, Cauchow

"I think the award that means the most is Food-Scene Game Changer (pg. 52). To be able to come back to my hometown of Cedar Rapids and be part of the growth of the community means a lot." **LV/**

—Andy Schumacher



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Jordan Sellegren / Little Village

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—*Alexander L.*

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Adam Burke / Little Village

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—*Bobby J.*

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BEST BARTENDER:

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203 N Linn St, Iowa City,
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Krista Burich has been bartending for 15 years, from college bars in Ames and Iowa City to a pool hall in Georgia, a wine bar in Maryland and, finally, Goosetown Cafe in Iowa City's Northside.

Three ingredients for a good bartender, according to Burich:

KNOWLEDGE "People will know if you're bullshitting them. You need knowledge of your basic drinks, wines and beers. Anyone can basically make a drink, following a recipe, but having a good memory and remembering all those recipes is harder." (*Krista's favorite drinks are classic cocktails, such as the Last Word and an egg white whiskey sour.*)

EFFICIENCY "Multitasking is important, so I can make a drink, or a couple drinks, while talking."

RAPPORT WITH CUSTOMERS "One customer's favorite drink is not going to be another customer's. Just knowing your customer and knowing what they will like is probably the best trait a bartender can have. More important than remembering their names is remembering their drink. I could still tell you from five years ago what my customers drank. I think people really appreciate that. **LV**/"

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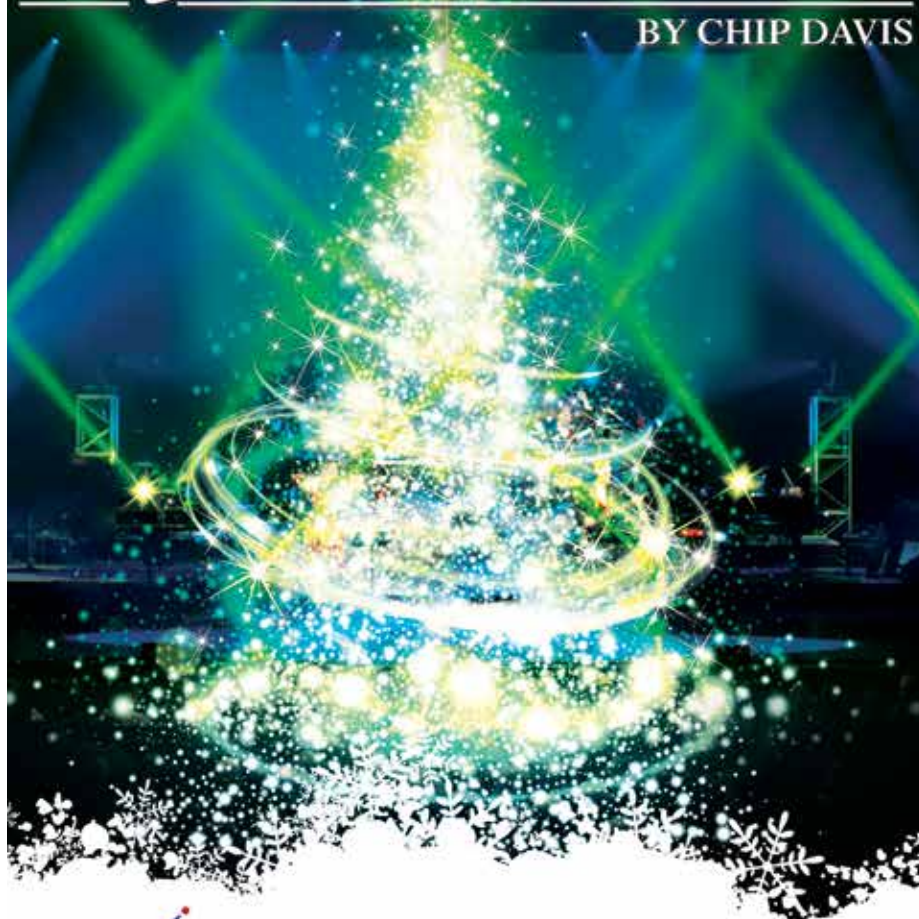
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EDITORS' PICKS

CALENDAR

EVENTS AROUND THE CRANDIC DEC. 5, 2018–JAN. 1, 2019

Planning an event? Submit event info to calendar@littlevillagemag.com. Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit littlevillagemag.com/calendar. Please check venue listing in case details have changed.

WED., DEC. 5

Iowa City Open Coffee, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

Gentle Yoga, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

READING FROM:
'THE WAY OF NILE KINNICK JR.'

Mark Wilson, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free

LOS ANGELES HARD ROCK

Bleed the Dream w/ the Swiss Army, Adam Peterson, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

Open Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Underground Karaoke Wednesday, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Open Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

THIS WEEK: 'MRS. CLAUS AKA STIRRING'

Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

STAFF PICKS

WHAT ARE WE DOING? DEC. 5, 2018–JAN. 1, 2019



Karen Meat's XXXMas with Younger, Raw Space, & Thrio, Friday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., Trumpet Blossom Cafe, \$10-20 I love holiday celebrations because I need kitschy tradition to fill my godless soul. Thank goodness for this XXXMas show, where a curated group of locals (including me, I admit it! I'm doing "White Christmas.") will perform their holiday number of choice with Karen Meat's full band. Beyond that, I can't say I know what to expect, what with the eclectic Karen Meat/girl-rock/all-boy jazz-trio/electronic dance music lineup, but I feel secure saying it'll be silly, ridiculous, talent-filled, holiday-inspired and super entertaining. Even better: all proceeds will go to Four Oaks & NAMIJC (National Alliance on Mental Illness of Johnson County).

—Jordan Sellergren

▲ FilmScene Turns Five: 'But I'm a Cheerleader,' FilmScene, Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 p.m., Free-\$5 Do I need to turn in my Queer Lady Film Snob card if I admit I've never seen *But I'm A Cheerleader*? Can you give me until Dec. 8, at least? Though I was moved by *Boy Erased*, this year's based-on-a-true-story drama of a teenage boy undergoing gay conversion therapy, I'm ready to catch its fantastical older sister. This 1999 cult classic comedy follows a confused high school cheerleader who's shipped off to gay conversion boot camp and falls for a headstrong fellow camper. Combining bubble-gum camp, an empowering message and performances by Natasha Lyonne (love me some Nicky Nichols), Clea DuVall, RuPaul and Michelle Williams, *But I'm A*

Cheerleader no doubt deserves perennial returns to the big screen. Cheers, Bijou Film Board and FilmScene!

—Emma McClatchey

Telekinetic Yeti w/ Stinking Lizaveta, Commanders, Acoustic Guillotine, Gabe's, Iowa City, Friday, Dec. 14, 9 p.m., \$10 Dubuque doom duo Telekinetic Yeti released their debut disc, *Abominable*, in 2017 to a panoply of praise (including my own). Unfortunately, they don't make it out to Iowa City for shows very often. That changes this month, with the can't-miss gig of the year: Telekinetic Yeti team up with Iowa City local favorites Acoustic Guillotine and Commanders, and welcome to the state the incomparable Philadelphia trio Stinking Lizaveta. All in all, it may be the doomiest lineup this city has seen.

—Genevieve Trainor

'A Child's Christmas in Wales,' The Mill, Iowa City, Dec. 20, 8:00 p.m. \$5 Originally introduced to me by a dear friend, this annual reading quickly became a tradition when I found myself married into a Welsh family; it's now one of my favorite holiday rituals and makes for a very happy Christmas. Even as an adult, there is something so cozy and comforting about being read to, and Dai's lovely, lilting Welsh accent only heightens the experience. The crowd is made up of mostly regulars, waiting to laugh at the funny bits about drunk Auntie Hannah or poor Mr. Daniel who looks like a spaniel, but there seems to always be room for new eager listeners. —Frankie Schneckloth LV

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THU., DEC. 6

The Picture Show: 'Scrooged,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 3:30 p.m., Free-\$5

I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NewBo Happier Hour, NewBo City Market, 5:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Little Village's Breakfast of Champions CRANDIC Bash, Graduate Hotel, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$42

Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

NEW ATLANTA HIP HOP

K Camp w/ A\$thmattic, B., Jose Disobey, King Tat, Gabe's, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$20-25

Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NEAR EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN MUSIC AND DANCE

Raqsat Salaam, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$15-25

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)
ALSO RUNS DEC. 7 & 8!

Lynne Rothrock Christmas Cabaret 2018, Cedar Rapids Public Library Whipple Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., \$30

Live Jazz, Clinton Street Social Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

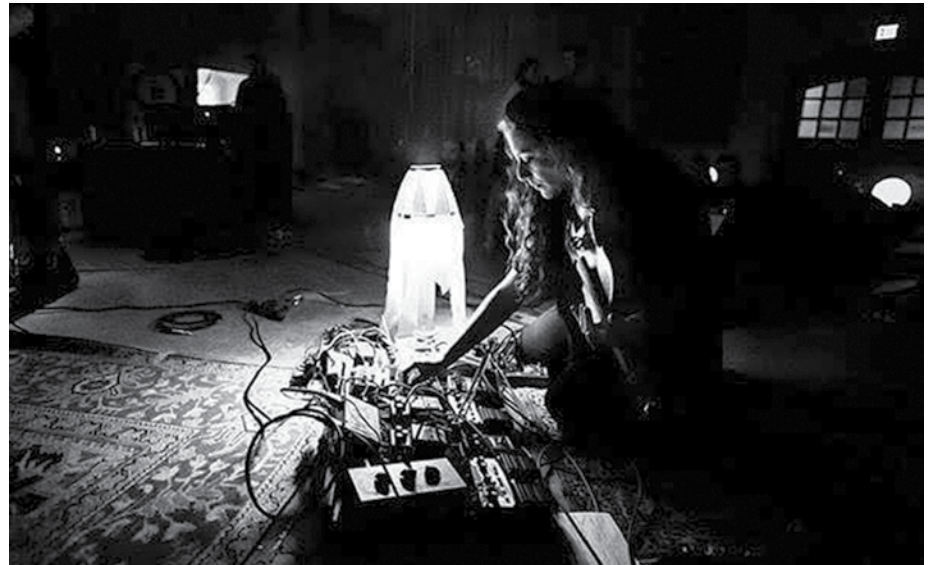
Aaron Kamm & the One Drops Christmas Show, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 9 p.m., \$10

WRISTBAND FROM PREVIOUS SHOW ALLOWS YOU TO STAY!

Bass Oasis w/ Snag, C-Dubbbz, DJ Gabito, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5

TOP PICKS: QUAD CITIES

DEC. 5,
2018-
JAN. 1,
2019



Via Jessica Moss

▲ **Outlet Presents: Jessica Moss w/ Idpyramid, Croatians Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, Thursday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m., \$10** Montreal violinist, composer and singer Jessica Moss is widely known as a permanent member of Silver Mt. Zion. Moss has two solo releases out on Constellation Records and has been performing her captivating post-classical violin drone music for audiences across the UK and North America. Joining her will be locals Idpyramid (experimental electronic) and Croatians (alternative experimental).

Northern Parallels: 027 // 2 Year Anniversary, Rozz-Tox, Rock Island, Saturday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., \$5 Two years ago, Adam Higgins and Mike Derer hosted a seven-hour journey of proper techno and house music on six decks at Rozz-Tox, billed as Northern Parallels: 01. Now coming up on its 27th iteration, the Northern Parallels series has been host to widely known and legendary house and techno DJs right here in the Quad Cities. Come dance it out from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. with extended sets from the guys who started NP.

The Dawn Live Album Recording—Two Night Special, Triple Crown Whiskey Bar & Raccoon Motel, Davenport, Friday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m. & Saturday, Dec. 22, 10 p.m., \$10 each night If you've ever wanted

to be in the crowd while a live album was being recorded, here's your chance. Local jam band the Dawn are recording an album over two nights at the Raccoon Motel, and they want you to be a part of the experience. If you've seen the Dawn live, you know how exhilarating their shows are, and having an energetic crowd that fuels the performance makes it all the better. These two nights will result in a piece of the Dawn's history you can physically own upon its release (more details to come).

New Year's Eve, featuring Condor & Jaybird, the Golden Fleece, Pale Tongue, Denim Dragon, Afterlife, Village Theatre, Davenport, Monday, Dec. 31, 7:30pm, \$10 Over the last few years, QC DIY has never had to second guess their NYE plans; this year is no different. The scorching line up consists of Condor & Jaybird, the Golden Fleece, Pale Tongue, Denim Dragon and Aqualife at the Village Theatre, with an after party at the Rock Island Supper Club at 1 a.m. (\$5, or free with wristband from this Condor & Jaybird show), featuring Pulsing and the Fantastic Plastics. This line up serves you doses of psych rock, freak folk, experimental synth, chiptune and futurewave. LV/

—Paige Underwood

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EDITORS' PICKS

FRI., DEC. 7

ALSO OPEN DEC. 8

Holiday Art Sale, Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 9 a.m.

Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$40 (Weekly)

CURATED BY JASON LIVINGSTON

Headroom presents Catching Z's at The End of Language, Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m.

FAC Dance Party, Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)

OPENING NIGHT!

THROUGH DEC. 16

City Circle Acting Company Presents: 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$14-29

BENEFIT FOR REVIVAL THEATRE COMPANY

Home for the Holidays, National Czech & Slovak Museum Ballroom, Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$40

HOLIDAY FAVORITES FROM THE COUNTRY HIT-MAKER

A Phil Vassar Christmas, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$38.50-68.50

ALSO DEC. 8

Nick Griffin w/ Chris Schlichting, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17

TICKET SALES GO TO FOUR OAKS & NAMIJC

Karen Meat's XXXMas with Younger, Raw Space, Thrio, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10-20 sliding scale

Underground Pianos w/ Jeff Mead, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Feed the Dog w/ Duchess, Everyday People Say What, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$8

SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

SAT, DEC. 8

Iowa City Holiday Market, Robert A. Lee Community Recreation Center, 8 a.m. (Weekly)

Holiday Pop-Up Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)

ALSO 12/9 AT 10 A.M. & 12/13 AT 3:30 P.M.

The Picture Show: 'Elf,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

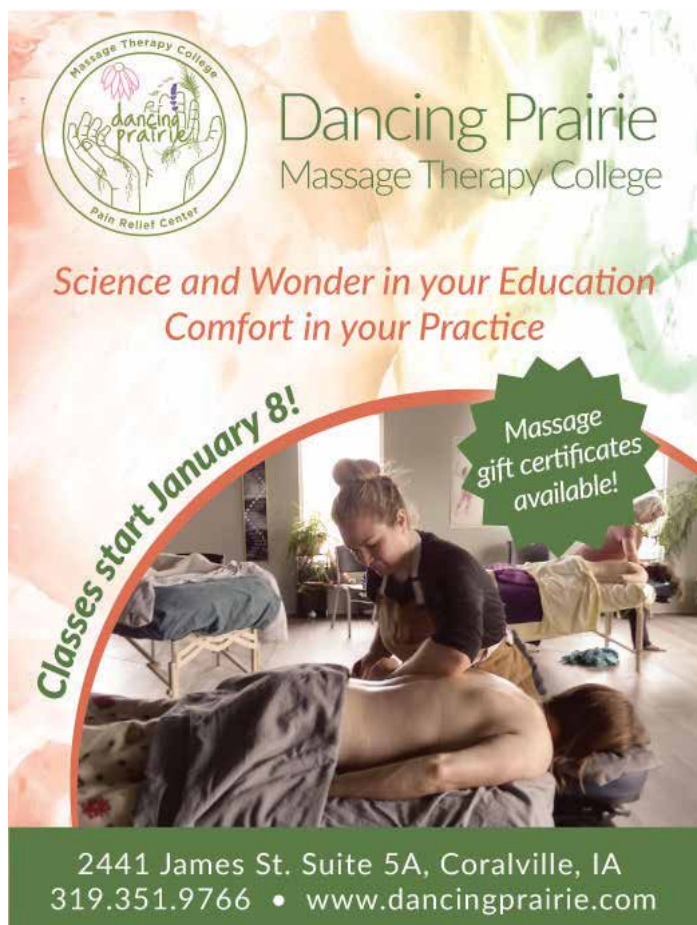
Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Folie a Deux Opening Reception, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free

IRISH PUNK ROCK

The Langer's Ball, Millstream Brau Haus, Amana, 6:30 p.m., Free



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Christmas Show with Coppers & Brass, *Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5*

Eddie Piccard Quartet Christmas Show, *Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 8 p.m., \$20*

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The Blow w/ Anthony Worden, *Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$12-15*

COLORADO INSTRUMENTAL HIP HOP
DMVU w/ Badman, Million Dollar Hippys, MixedMind, *Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$13-15*

Elation Dance Party, *Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)*

FILMSCENE TURNS FIVE
Bijou After Hours Presents: 'But I'm A Cheerleader', *FilmScene, Iowa City, 11 p.m., Free-\$5*

SUN., DEC. 9

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER W/ AWARDS, SILENT AUCTION
The Eye Opener Food and Film, *FilmScene, Iowa City, 9:30 a.m., Free-\$35*

Holiday Pop-Up Market, *NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)*

READING FROM 'WHAT IS IT, GRANDMA?' AND CHILDREN'S ART ACTIVITY
Jane Melloy and Mary Campbell, *Next Page Books, Cedar Rapids, 10:30 a.m., Free*

Corridor Games on Demand: Playing in Public, *Tempest Games, Cedar Rapids, 12 p.m., Free*

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!
'Les Miserables', *Hancher, Iowa City, 1 & 6:30 p.m., \$60-110*

TOP PICKS: DES MOINES DEC. 5, 2018–JAN. 1, 2019



via Moberg Gallery

ReUnion Brewery vs. Exile Brewing Company Tap Takeover The Lift, Des Moines, Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. The Lift is kicking off December with another one of its Tap Takeover events. This time around, it's Coralville's ReUnion Brewery facing off against Des Moines' own Exile Brewing Company. Each brewery is given five taps to curate from their selection, the Lift discounts all the beers down to \$3 and then we all get to come in and argue about which IPA is better. Music for the event is provided by DJ Need-A-Stack and DJ SkyHawk. Highly recommended for beer snobs and schlups alike.

▲ Winter Group Show Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, Friday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m., Free The Moberg Gallery's group show every winter is an excellent opportunity to see a snapshot of the kind of curation the gallery does throughout the year. This year is the 15th anniversary of the winter show and will feature work from Andrew Abbott, the Belle Morte Collective (Larassa Kabel, Ben Easter), Justin Beller, Tibi Chelcea, Catherine Dreiss, Sarah Grant, Kenneth Hall, Frank Hansen, Thomas C. Jackson, TJ Moberg, Tom Moberg, Scott Charles Ross, Robert Schulte Jr., Madai Taylor, Jeffrey Thompson, Chris Vance, and Aaron Wilson & Tim Dooley. The show will also feature new Moberg roster artists: Danielle Clouse, Dennis Dykema, Annick Ibsen, Jason Woodside, Lianjie Zheng.

Brilliant Crafts and Wares 7 Vaudeville Mews, Des Moines, Sunday, Dec. 9, 12 p.m., Free Are you an uncreative gift-giver? This holiday season, let the hardworking artisans of Des Moines provide the creativity for you! It's time once again for the annual Brilliant Crafts and Wares fair, brought to you by (a few of) the organizers of the Iowa City-famous What a Load of Craft. On Dec. 9, Brilliant Crafts and Wares returns for its seventh iteration between the walls of the well-loved Vaudeville Mews. The fair hosts nearly 25 local artists featuring wares ranging from artwork to gemstones and jewelry, handmade clothing to beeswax candles and more. It runs from noon to five and is open to the public of all ages.

Bad Bad Hats w/ Michaela Thompson Gas Lamp, Des Moines, Saturday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., \$10-12 Bad Bad Hats played Des Moines around this time last year. I was working that night, and when people started shuffling into my bar after the show, everyone seemed to be in a daze. I couldn't get a straight answer out of anyone about how it was. No one seemed to have the words to describe it. It wasn't until I started into the band's excellent debut album, *Psychic Reader*, that I figured out what I must have missed. Luckily, the Minneapolis band is swinging back through Des Moines for a show at the Gas Lamp on Dec. 15, in support of their sophomore album, *Lightning Round*. If you missed them the first time around (like me), the tour gods have bestowed upon you a second chance.

—Trey Reis LV/

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TOP PICKS: WATERLOO/CEDAR FALLS

DEC. 5, 2018–JAN. 1, 2019



via Maddie Poppe's Instagram

▲ Maddie Poppe: UNI Dance Marathon Benefit Concert Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Cedar Falls, **Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., \$20-50** Iowa's own American Idol is lending her star power to a good cause as she takes the Gallagher Bluedorn stage for a show benefiting the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital and the University of Northern Iowa Dance Marathon. Members of the UNI Dance Marathon will be on hand throughout the evening speaking about the organization and its fundraising goals. The show marks Clarksville, Iowa native Poppe's first performance in the Cedar Valley since her season 16 *American Idol* win earlier this year.

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Presents: A Baroque Holiday Brown Derby Ballroom, Waterloo, **Saturday, Dec. 8, 4 & 7 p.m., \$5-28** The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony explores the music of J.S. Bach for the holidays, with a program that includes everything from vocal works to chamber music. Pieces on the bill include: instrumental and vocal selections from Cantatas for Advent/Christmas/New Years; vocal selections from Christmas Oratorio BWV 248; Harpsichord Concerto in A major, BWV 1055; and Overture No. 4 in D Major, BWV 1069 (original version).

Krampus Fest! Spicoli's Reverb, Waterloo, Saturday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., \$7-10 It's happening 10 days after Krampusnacht, and one presumes that no harm will come to any children, but Spicoli's is celebrating the dark counterpart to St. Nicholas with an evening filled to bursting with regional metal and hardcore. Acts include Bleedchain, Hardship and Jim-jones out of Waterloo joined by Minnesotans By the Thousands, Terraform and In Search Of Solace. Tickets are \$10, but a donation of a toy, a hat or a pair of gloves drops your cover to \$7. All donations benefit families in need for the holiday season, through Cedar Valley Friends of the Family.

Heatbox w/ Cracka Don, DJ Mase, Devin Simmons, Cheesus Spicoli's Reverb, Waterloo, Saturday, Dec. 29, 9 p.m., \$10-15 Minneapolis beatboxer extraordinaire Heatbox is back in Iowa for another not-to-be-missed show, with a wild assortment of unconventional locals opening.

Hex Girls Vinyl Release Show w/ No No Bad Dog, Harper's Jar Octopus College Hill, Cedar Falls, Monday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., \$10 Ring in the new year with something brand new—the Hex Girls new album, *More of That*. The Cedar Falls band celebrates its Dec. 31 release with a blast of a show featuring Arkansas-to-Minnesota transplants Harper's Jar and fellow Iowans No No Bad Dog. **LV**

EDITORS' PICKS

Annie Savage's Great Big Friendly Bluegrass Jam, The Mill, Iowa City, 1 p.m., Free (2nd Sunday)

Sunday Funday, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

ICCT Presents: 'Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge,' Johnson County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$9-17

Field Division w/ Crystal City, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

MON., DEC. 10

Open Mic, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Richard Thompson Electric Trio, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$39.50-125

Comedy Open Mic with Spencer & Dan, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NEW JERSEY PUNK ROCK

Doc Rotten, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free

TUE., DEC. 11

FILMSCENE TURNS FIVE

'Kedi,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5

Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Weekly Old-Timey Jam Sessions, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Dance Party with DJ Batwoman, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Comedy & Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Karaoke Tuesdays, The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

WED., DEC. 12

Iowa City Open Coffee, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

Gentle Yoga, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

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EDITORS' PICKS

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City,
6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

A HOLIDAY TRADITION!

Festival of Carols, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 6:30
p.m., Free

MELANCHOLY, LYRIC-DRIVEN FOLK

Kris Delmhorst w/ Sam Moss, CSPS Legion Arts,
Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$17-21

Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, Iowa
City, 7 p.m., \$5 (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

Open Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar
Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

MINNEAPOLIS INDIE FOLK

Reina Del Cid, Gabe's, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$15-18

Underground Karaoke Wednesday, Iowa City
Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Open Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free
(Weekly)

THIS WEEK: 'BLACK CHRISTMAS'

Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa
City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

THU., DEC. 13

I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One,
Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

PORTION OF PROCEEDS GO TO GAYS AGAINST GUNS

Students Against School Shootings Concert,
The Mill, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$10 suggested donation

NewBo Happier Hour, NewBo City Market, 5:30
p.m., Free (Weekly)

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Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

FIRST MONTHLY BURLESQUE SHOW

When I Think About You I Touch My Elf, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10:30 p.m., \$5

FRI., DEC. 14

NewBo Open Coffee, Roasters Coffeehouse in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free (2nd & 4th Fridays)

STUDENTS AGAINST SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

March for Sandy Hook, City High, Iowa City, 2:26 p.m.

FEATURING HOMEBREWED

4th Annual Last Dash Crisis Center Food Bank Fundraiser, The Mill, Iowa City, 5:30 p.m., \$10 suggested donation

Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$40 (Weekly)

FAC Dance Party, Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)

OPENING NIGHT! RUNS THROUGH DEC. 16

Combined Efforts Theatre Presents: 'Zwicky's Air,' Johnson County Fairgrounds, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5-10

FOLK-AMERICANA

Jeffrey Kapps & Tara McGovern, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

ALSO DEC. 15

Pete George, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17

The Beaker Brothers Band Christmas Show, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 8 p.m., \$20

METAL MAYHEM

Telekinetic Yeti w/ Stinking Lizaveta, Commanders, Acoustic Guillotine, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$10

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EDITORS' PICKS

Underground Pianos w/ Jeff Mead, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

SAT., DEC. 15

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,' Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 10 a.m., \$10

Holiday Pop-Up Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)

ALSO 12/16 AT 10 A.M. & 12/20 AT 3:30 P.M.

The Picture Show: 'The Grinch,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Dinner Show with David Zollo and the Body Electric, Wildwood Smokehouse & Saloon, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$10

Holiday Film Fest: 'It's a Wonderful Life,' Artisan's Sanctuary, Marion, 7 p.m., Freewill donation

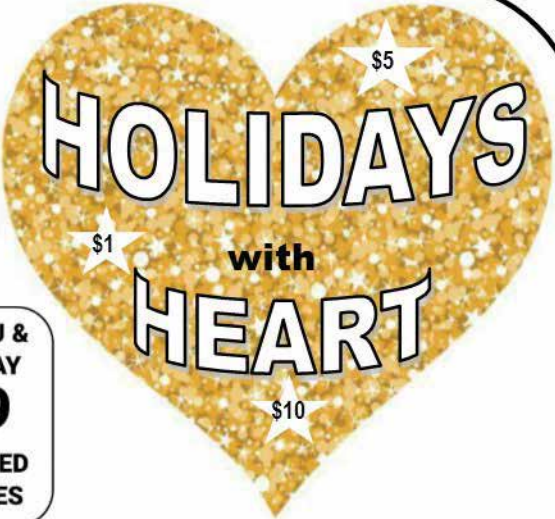
The Quire presents "Beautiful Things," Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Freewill donation

GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE BAND PLAYS THE MAY 9, 1977 BUFFALO, NY SHOW
Winterland: Legends of '77, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$12-15

FOLK ROCK

Dan Tedesco w/ Jason Walsmith, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$10-12

Steve Grismore Trio, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free



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Dear Kiki,
Holy fuck, it was an interesting Thanksgiving. My sister and her husband hosted, and my dad, my partner and I, and some other family stayed overnight. Around midnight, my partner and I decided everyone in the house was asleep and we could get away with a little, er, heavy cuddling. In the middle of things, just when it occurred to me that we hadn't locked the door, my dad walks in. (Of course. I'd asked him to if he could install something on my computer, and apparently he'd stayed up to work on it and was trying to drop it back off in my room.) He almost definitely got a good view of what was going on, because he rushed out. The next morning we gave everyone a cursory goodbye, avoiding eye contact, and hit the road.

My dad and I live in different states, so it's not hard to avoid him, but Christmas is steadily approaching. How do I diffuse the awkward—an awkward so awkward it gives the word new meaning?? Of course I'm embarrassed, but I'm also weirdly sad. My dad and I are pretty close, but he grew up in a pretty uptight family and we never, ever discuss sex stuff. I feel like it was a violation of our relationship. Should I pretend it never happened or diffuse the tension?

Sincerely,
Scared of the Elephant in the Room

Dearest Elephant,
I'm glad you came to me with this inquiry. Everyone who's ever been parented lives in mortal fear of someday accidentally catching their parents doin' it—but few people remember to be properly anxious about

the flip side situation, which you quite unfortunately found yourself in. It's one worth emotionally prepping for, no doubt.

But you didn't get to prep, and I'm sorry for that! If I still owned a physical dictionary, I would clip out your story and tape it beside the entry for "mortified." Here's the thing to remember, though: Given that you were likely born in or near the 21st century, there's a damn good chance that your dad changed your diapers. You almost definitely have thrown up on him. He's probably brushed your teeth, picked lice from your hair, dried any number of tears—and, most

importantly, he loves you. He's seen it all, he's been through it all. It's highly unlikely that an accidental peep show could do any lasting damage to your relationship.

Some folks have super open, let-it-all-hang-out relationships with their parents, and that's awesome! But there's no need to force it when that's just not who he is. Next time you have a chance to get him alone, just say, "Hey, Dad—I'm sorry for the, well, you know. That was uncool."

And if he has nothing else to say about it, leave it be.

The one thing you didn't mention, though, was what your partner's thoughts on all this are. Have you two discussed it? Are they going to be comfortable around your dad going forward? Family relationships are important, but if you want a future with your partner, you need to take their needs into account as well—and that might trump the "best" way to manage this between you and your dad.

xoxo, Kiki LV

IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS, JUST WHEN IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT WE HADN'T LOCKED THE DOOR, MY DAD WALKS IN.

KIKI WANTS QUESTIONS!



Questions about love and sex in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area can be submitted to dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com, or anonymously at littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki. Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at littlevillagemag.com.

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EDITORS' PICKS

**W/ THE GREY MAN, SOUNDTROOPER,
SOFROESCH, ANDROID ANTILL**

Operation 808: The Lost City, Gabe's, Iowa City,
9 p.m., \$7-10

TEXAS BLUES

Ally Venable, Blue Moose Tap House, Iowa City, 9
p.m., \$10-12

Wovoka JR w/ the Daisy Bombs, Porchburner,
Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$7

**Max & the Megababes w/Big Oak, Sex Gar-
bage**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10

Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m.,
\$5 (Weekly)

SUN., DEC. 16

Holiday Pop-Up Market, NewBo City Market,
Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)

Power of Play Day, Iowa Children's Museum,
Coralville, 11 a.m., Free

Sunday Funday, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City,
2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

'Allelujah!', Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m.,
\$15-18

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

'Santa Claus Conquers the Martians,' Giving Tree
Theater, Marion, 2 p.m., \$10-26

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

'Rotten Egnog,' Riverside Theatre, Iowa City, 2
p.m., \$30

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

'Elf: The Musical,' Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2:30
p.m., \$25-53

Jack McVey, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 4 p.m.,
\$10

STEELY DAN TRIBUTE

The Fez, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$12-15

MON., DEC. 17

Open Mic, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Comedy Open Mic with Spencer & Dan, Iowa
City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

TUE., DEC. 18

FILMSCENE TURNS FIVE

'Moonlight,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5

Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rap-
ids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Weekly Old-Timey Jam Sessions, Trumpet Bos-
som Cafe, Iowa City, 7:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Dance Party with DJ Batwoman, Iowa City Yacht
Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Comedy & Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m.,
Free (Weekly)

Karaoke Tuesdays, The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30
p.m., Free (Weekly)

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WED., DEC. 19

Iowa City Open Coffee, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

Gentle Yoga, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Open Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Underground Karaoke Wednesday, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Open Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

THIS WEEK: 'JACK FROST'

Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

Backroom Bass Sessions with Bruuuce, The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., Free

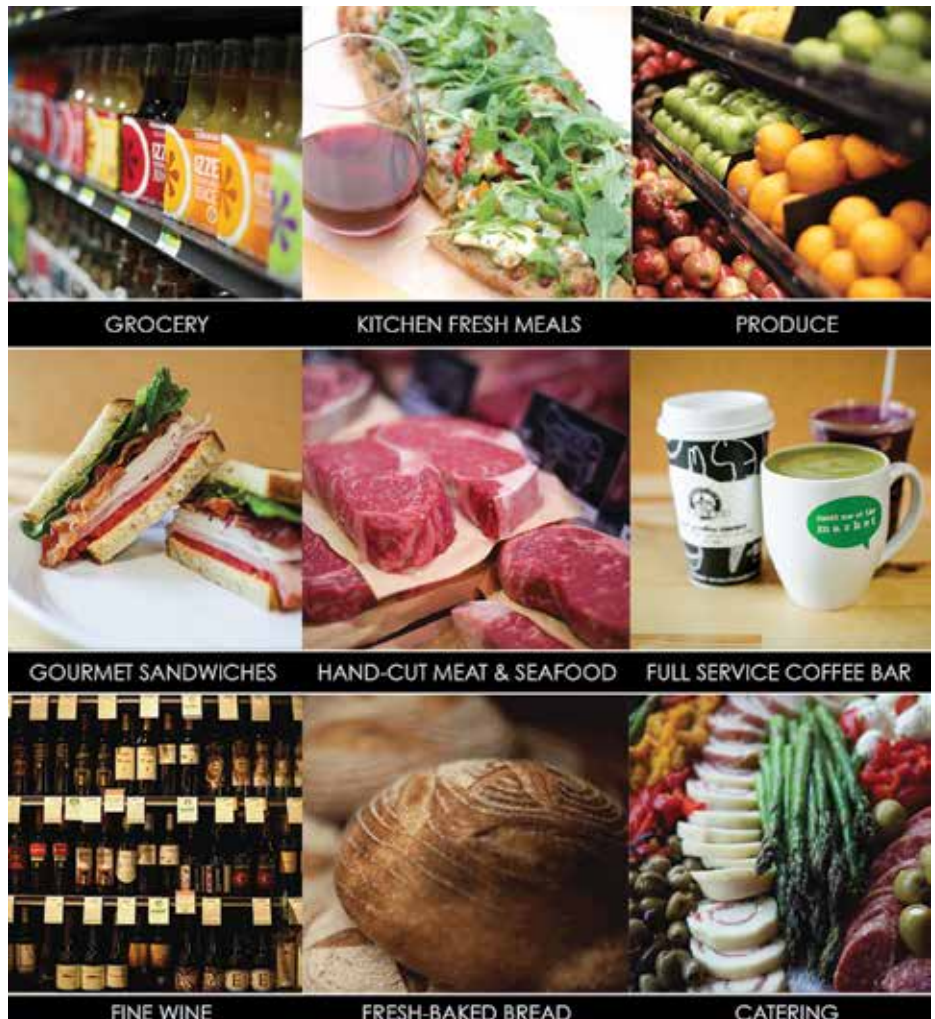
THU., DEC. 20

CLOSING PERFORMANCE!

'Away in the Basement: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas,' Old Creamery Theatre, Amana, 2 p.m., \$12-31.50

I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NewBo Happier Hour, NewBo City Market, 5:30 p.m., Free (Weekly)



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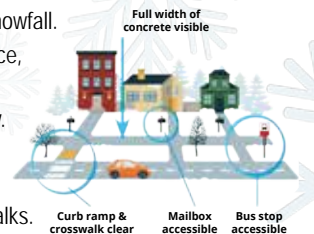
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- * Leaving for an extended time? Find someone to shovel your walks.



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EDITORS' PICKS

Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Novel Conversations, Coralville Community Library, 7 p.m., Free (3rd Thursday)

Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

A READING W/ DAI GWILLIAM

'A Child's Christmas in Wales' by Dylan Thomas, The Mill, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$5

Live Jazz, Clinton Street Social Club, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

FRI., DEC. 21

Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$40 (Weekly)

FAC Dance Party, Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)

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Euforquestra's Home for the Holidays, w/ Jon Wayne and the Pain, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$17-22

Blake Shaw Trio, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

ALSO DEC. 22

Nathan Timmel, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., \$15-17

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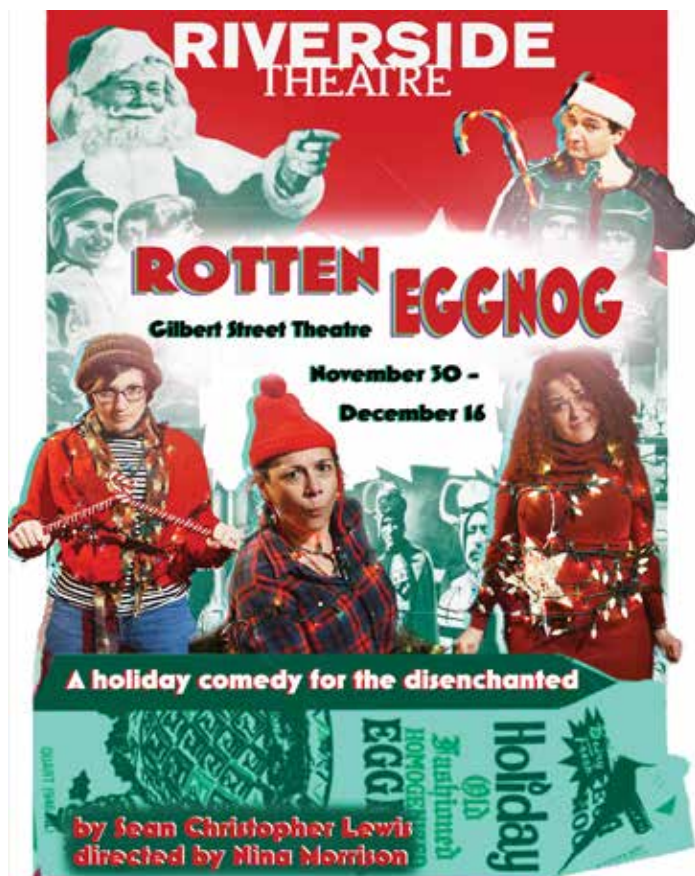
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EDITORS' PICKS

Holiday Pianos, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

SAT, DEC. 22

Holiday Pop-Up Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)

ALSO 12/23 AT 10 A.M. & 12/27 AT 3:30 P.M.

The Picture Show: 'It's a Wonderful Life,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free (Weekly)

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE 'Antony and Cleopatra,' Englert Theatre, Iowa City, 2 p.m., \$15-18

Gloria Hardiman Presents A Blue Christmas, The Mill, 7 p.m., \$10-12

Holiday Pianos, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Grand Avenue Ruckus w/ Non-prophet, Gabe's, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$8

Kris Lager Band Christmas Show, Famous Mockingbird, 9 p.m., \$15

Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)



SUN., DEC. 23

Holiday Pop-Up Market, NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m. (Weekly)

Sunday Funday, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

BENEFIT FOR TRANS LIFELINE

Homo for the Holidays: Lipstick Homicide w/ Coolzey, Belly Belt, the Cherry Tops, Catholic Werewolves, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 6 p.m., \$10 suggested donation

MON., DEC. 24

Open Mic, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Christmas Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

Comedy Open Mic with Spencer & Dan, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

TUE., DEC. 25

Coffee with Dan Christmas Conversation, MERGE, Iowa City, 10:30 a.m., Free

Christmas Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

Dance Party with DJ Batwoman, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

WED., DEC. 26

Iowa City Open Coffee, Merge, Iowa City, 8 a.m., Free (Weekly)

Gentle Yoga, Public Space One, Iowa City, 5 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

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A poster for the Cirque du Soleil show 'Corteo'. The background is a soft, cloudy sky. In the foreground, a man in a white shirt and grey overalls stands with his arms outstretched, looking up. Above him, several acrobats are performing in the air: one is on a bicycle, another is on a ladder, and others are in various poses. The text 'CIRQUE DU SOLEIL' is in a blue serif font. Below it, 'Corteo' is in a large, ornate blue font. Underneath 'Corteo' is a banner that says 'GET CARRIED AWAY WITH LIFE'. Below the banner, the dates 'MAY 1 - 5' and the venue 'U.S. CELLULAR CENTER' are in a brown serif font. At the bottom, the website 'cirquedusoleil.com/corteo' and the text 'Show created by DANIELE FINZI PASCA' are in a smaller brown font. On the left side, there is a small vertical text: 'Cirque du Soleil and Corteo are trademarks owned by Cirque du Soleil and used under license.'

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Show created by DANIELE FINZI PASCA

EDITORS' PICKS

Break Dance Group, Public Space One, Iowa City, 6 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Burlington Street Bluegrass Band, The Mill, Iowa City, 7 p.m., \$5 (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

Open Mic Night, Penguin's Comedy Club, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Underground Karaoke Wednesday, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Open Stage, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

THIS WEEK: 'NEW YEAR'S EVIL'

Late Shift at the Grindhouse, Film Scene, Iowa City, 10 p.m., \$4 (Weekly)

THU., DEC. 27

I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 4 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Meet Me at the Market, NewBo City Market, 5 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Iowa City Meditation Class: How To Transform Your Life, Quaker Friends Meeting House, Iowa City, 6:30 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

Thursday Night Live Open Mic, Uptown Bill's, Iowa City, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Daddy-O, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Karaoke Thursday, Studio 13, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free (Weekly)



An advertisement for Quinton's Bar & Deli. The top left features four small images of food: a sandwich, a pizza, a salad, and a bowl of food. The top right has the logo 'Quinton's' in a large, stylized red font, with 'BAR & DELI' in a smaller red font below it. Below the logo is the website 'QUINTONSBARANDDELI.COM'. The bottom section lists four locations with their addresses and phone numbers: Iowa City (319-354-7074, 215 E. Washington St.), Cedar Rapids (319-200-4192, 450 1st St SW #101), Coralville (319-625-2221, 2500 Corridor Way Ste 5), and Des Moines (319-625-2221, 506 E. Grand Ave).

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An advertisement for 'Angels Speak'. The top features a cartoon illustration of a young girl with brown hair, a halo, and wings, holding a red heart. Below the illustration is the text 'ANGELS SPEAK' in a large, stylized font, followed by 'ANGEL THERAPIST • ANGELIC MESSAGES' in a smaller font. At the bottom, the name 'GRACE ROSE' is written in a cursive font, followed by the phone number '(319) 354-1432'.

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EDITORS' PICKS

FRI., DEC. 28

NewBo Open Coffee, Roasters Coffeehouse in NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids, 8 a.m., Free (2nd & 4th Fridays)

Friday Night Out, Ceramics Center, Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$40 (Weekly)

FAC Dance Party, Union, Iowa City, 7 p.m. (Weekly)
Saul Lubaroff Trio, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

OPENING NIGHT! THROUGH JAN. 13

'Our Town,' Giving Tree Theater, Marion, 8 p.m., \$15-26

Catfish Keith, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$15-17

Underground Pianos w/ Jeff Mead, Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., \$5-10 (Weekly)

SoulShake, Gabe's, Iowa City, 10 p.m., Free (Weekly)

Sasha Belle Presents: Friday Night Drag & Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

SAT., DEC. 29

ALSO 12/30 AT 10 A.M. & 1/3 AT 3:30 P.M.

The Picture Show: 'March of the Penguins,' FilmScene, Iowa City, 10 a.m., Free-\$5

Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free (Weekly)

I.C. Press Co-op Open Shop, Public Space One, Iowa City, 12 p.m., Free (Weekly)

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Colin Halliburton, Sanctuary Pub, Iowa City, 8 p.m., Free

James Tolly, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 8 p.m., Free

Hadiza. + Babydoll Double Release Show w/ Good Morning Midnight, Kamil Kardashian, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Iowa City, 8 p.m., \$7

Elation Dance Party, Studio 13, Iowa City, 9 p.m., \$5 (Weekly)

COMEDIAN SPENCER LOUCKS AND ANIMATOR LEV CANTORAL Debut Episode: 'Sea Dogs!' The Mill, Iowa City, 10:30 p.m., \$6

SUN., DEC. 30

Sunday Funday, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, 2 p.m., Free (Weekly)

AMERICANA FROM LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The Wildwoods, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids, 4 p.m., Free

'Finding Neverland,' Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, 5 p.m., \$50-75

Heatbox: A New Year Celebration, Famous Mockingbird, Marion, 9 p.m., \$15

MON., DEC. 31

Kids New Year's Eve Party, PlayStation, Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., Free-\$12

AUSSIE FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

Australian New Year, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, Cedar Rapids, 11 a.m.

Wylde Nept Irish New Year, The Mill, Iowa City, 4 p.m., \$12-15



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\$20-150

New Year's Bash with Iowa Cities
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New Year's Eve Ice Ball with
Alisabeth Von Presley, DanceMor
Ballroom, Swisher, 9 p.m., \$15-20

Comedy Open Mic with Spencer
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Angel Davanport and James
Cam'Ron, The Mill, Iowa City, 10
p.m., \$12

TUE., JAN. 1

Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and
Eatery, Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., Free
(Weekly)

Dance Party with DJ Batwoman,
Iowa City Yacht Club, 9 p.m., Free
(Weekly)

Comedy & Karaoke, Studio 13, Iowa
City, 9 p.m., Free (Weekly)

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DECEMBER 15 Steve Grismore
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DECEMBER 21 Blake Shaw Trio
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DECEMBER 28 Saul Lubaroff
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DECEMBER 29 Colin Halliburton
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ADVERTISER INDEX

LittleVillageMag.com/Advertising

- ANGELS SPEAK (82)
- ANKE BELLINGER (76)
- ARTIFACTS (83)
- BARONCINI RISTORANTE (96)
- BIG GROVE BREWERY (17, 87)
- BIOTEST (8)
- BLUEBIRD (69)
- BREAD GARDEN MARKET (77)
- THE BROKEN SPOKE (81)
- CEDAR RAPIDS NEW BOHEMIA / CZECH VILLAGE (73)
- THE GARDEN WREN
- BLACK EARTH GALLERY
- GET FRESH
- MAD MODERN
- PARLOR CITY
- GODFINCH CYCLERY
- THE DAISY
- RAYGUN
- CITY OF IOWA CITY (77)
- COBBLE HILL (57)
- CROWDED CLOSET (65)
- THE DANDY LION (65)
- DANCING PRAIRIE (66)
- DELUXE CAKES & PASTRIES (71)
- DESIGN RANCH (65)
- DEVOTAY (83)
- ECHOLLECTIVE FARM (55)
- THE ENGLERT THEATRE (13, 21)
- EL BANDITOS (43)
- FILMSCENE (11, 91)
- GOLDFINCH CYCLERY (35)
- GRADUATE IOWA CITY (2)
- HABA SALON (45)
- HANCHER AUDITORIUM (4-5)
- HEYN'S PREMIUM ICE CREAM (53)
- HIGH GROUND (72)
- ICCA (89)
- IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN DISTRICT (25)
- IOWA PUBLIC RADIO (89)
- IOWA RECOVERY ROOM (87)
- IOWA CITY NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE (48-49)
- DESIGN RANCH
- HAMBURG INN NO. 2
- DEVOTAY
- HOME EC. WORKSHOP
- DODGE STREET TIRE
- HIGH GROUND
- GOOSETOWN CAFE
- BLUEBIRD
- ARTIFACTS
- PAGLIAI'S PIZZA
- OASIS FALAFEL
- R.S.V.P.
- GEORGE'S
- WILLOW & STOCK
- THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP
- NODO
- JOHN'S GROCERY
- EL BANDITO'S
- RUSS' NORTHSIDE SERVICE
- IOWA CITY DOWNTOWN CO-OP (60-61)
- NODO
- WHITE RABBIT
- RELEASE BODY MODIFICATION
- THE CONVENIENCE STORE
- BREAD GARDEN MARKET
- RECORD COLLECTOR
- YOTOPIA
- TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES
- THE KONNEXION
- IOWA ARTISAN'S GALLERY
- DEADWOOD TAVERN
- HEARTLAND YOGA
- BARONCINI
- DONNELLY'S
- IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
- BEADOLGY
- MICKY'S IRISH PUB
- THE MILL
- PRAIRIE LIGHTS
- RAYGUN
- IOWA CITY EASTSIDE (63)
- PRISMSSCAPE
- ENDORPHINDEN TATTOO
- HAMBURG INN NO. 2
- SHAKESPEARE'S PUB & GRILL
- IOWA CITY OLD TRAIN DEPOT (76-77)
- PATV
- TRUMPET BLOSSOM
- THE CLUB CAR
- IOWA CITY SOUTH OF BOWERY (79)
- THE COTTAGE
- TECHNIGRAPHICS
- MUSICIAN'S PRO SHOP
- CRITICAL HIT
- GOODFELLOW PRINTING, INC.
- OLD CAPITOL SCREEN PRINTERS
- WHITEDOG AUTO
- WORLD OF BIKES
- THE BROKEN SPOKE
- JAIME NEVINS (37)
- JAVA HOUSE (51)
- KCCCK JAZZ 88.3 (88)
- KIM SCHILLIG (76)
- MISSION CREEK FESTIVAL (67)
- NEW PIONEER FOOD CO-OP (78)
- QUINTON'S BAR & DELI (82)
- MARION UPTOWN (85)
- RAMSEY'S
- TREASURE CHEST COLLECTIBLES
- THE DAISY
- MC GINSBERG (44)
- MARTIN CONSTRUCTION (69)
- MAZAHIR SALIH (29)
- NEW SONG EPISCOPAL CHURCH (26)
- OASIS FALAFEL (41)
- OLD CAPITOL SCREEN PRINTERS (93)
- ORCHESTRA IOWA (95)
- PARAMOUNT THEATRE (40)
- PHOEBE MARTIN, REALTOR (33)
- PUBLIC SPACE ONE (75)
- RED PEPPER DELI & GRILL (76)
- REVIVAL (15, 74)
- RIVERSIDE THEATRE (80)
- RUN CRANDIC (80)
- RIVERSIDE CASINO & RESORT (65, 86)
- SANCTUARY (89)
- SCRATCH CUPCAKERY (72)
- SUMMER OF THE ARTS (19)
- STACEY WALKER (27)
- STUDIO 13 (39)
- SMART FM (86)
- TRUMPET BLOSSOM CAFE (71)
- THE SECOND ACT (71)
- TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST (88)
- TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES (23)
- TOYOTA OF IOWA CITY (47)
- UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CLINICAL TRIALS (69)
- UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PENTACREST
- MUSEUMS (31)
- UNIVERSITY OF IOWA STANLEY MUSEUM OF ART (66, 85)
- UNITED WAY (74)
- US CELLULAR CENTER (62, 82)
- THE WEDGE (86)
- WHITEDOG (3)
- WILLOW & STOCK (59, 88)
- ZEPHYR PRINTING & DESIGN (89)

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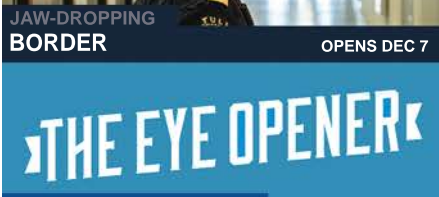


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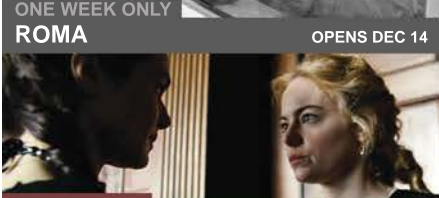
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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Robert Louis Stevenson published his gothic novel *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in 1886. It was a bestseller, and quickly got turned into a theatrical production. In the ensuing 132 years, there have been well over a hundred further adaptations of the story into film and stage productions. Here's the funny thing about this influential work: Stevenson wrote it fast. It took him three feverish days to get the gist of it and just another six weeks to revise. Some biographers say he was high on drugs during the initial burst, perhaps cocaine. I suspect you could also produce some robust and interesting creation in the coming weeks, Sagittarius—and you won't even need cocaine to fuel you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A blogger on Tumblr named Ffssh composed a set of guidelines that I think will be apt and useful for you to draw on in the coming weeks. Please study these suggestions and adapt them for your healing process. "Draw stick figures. Sing off-key. Write bad poems. Sew ugly clothes. Run slowly. Flirt clumsily. Play video games on 'easy.' OK? You do not need to be good at something to enjoy it. Sometimes talent is overrated. Do things you like doing just because you like doing them. It's OK to suck."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian athlete Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player who ever lived. He was also the first to become a billionaire. But when he was growing up, he didn't foresee the glory that awaited him. For example, in high school he took a home economics class so as to acquire cooking abilities. Why? He imagined that as an adult he might have to prepare all of his own meals. His ears were so huge and ungainly, he reasoned, that no woman would want to be his wife. So the bad news was that he suffered from a delusion. The good news was that because of his delusion, he learned a useful skill. I foresee a similar progression for you, Aquarius. Something you did that was motivated by misguided or irrelevant ideas may yield positive results.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The Bible does not say that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute or even a "sinner." There's no mention of her sexual proclivities at all. Delusional ideas about her arose in the Middle Ages, instigated by priests who confused her with other women in the Bible. The truth is that the Bible names her as a key ally to Christ, and the crucial witness to his resurrection. Fortunately, a number of scholars and church leaders have in recent years been working to correct her reputation. I invite you to be motivated and inspired by this transformation as you take steps to adjust and polish your own image during the coming weeks. It's time to get your public and private selves into closer alignment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): When I write a horoscope for you, I focus on one or two questions because I don't have room to cover every single aspect of your life. The theme I've chosen this time may seem a bit impractical, but if you take it to heart, I guarantee you it will have practical benefits. It comes from Italian author Umberto Eco. He wrote, "Perhaps the mission of those who love humanity is to make people laugh at the truth, to make truth laugh, because the only truth lies in learning to free ourselves from insane passion for the truth." I swear to you, Aries, that if you laugh at the truth and make the truth laugh in the coming days, you will be guided to do all the right and necessary things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have a cosmic mandate and a poetic license to stir up far more erotic fantasies than usual. It'll be healthy for you to unleash many new thoughts about sexual experiments that would be fun to try and novel feelings you'd like to explore and people whose naked flesh you'd be interested to experience sliding and gliding against yours. But please note that the cosmic mandate and poetic license do not necessarily

extend to you acting out your fantasies. The important thing is to let your imagination run wild. That will catalyze a psychic healing you didn't even realize you needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In my continuing efforts to help you want what you need and need what you want, I've collected four wise quotes that address your looming opportunities. 1. "What are you willing to give up, in order to become who you really need to be?" —Elizabeth Gilbert 2. "Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from." —Rebecca Solnit 3. "You enter the extraordinary by way of the ordinary." —Frederick Buechner 4. "Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you." —Nathaniel Hawthorne

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I've called on author Robert Heinlein to provide your horoscope. According to my astrological analysis, his insights are exactly what you need to focus on right now. "Do not confuse 'duty' with what other people expect of you," he wrote. "They are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect. But there is no reward at all for doing what other people expect of you, and to do so is not merely difficult, but impossible."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What does beauty mean to you? What sights, sounds, images, qualities, thoughts and behavior do you regard as beautiful? Whatever your answers might be to those questions right now, I suggest you expand and deepen your definitions in the coming weeks. You're at a perfect pivot point to invite more gorgeous, lyrical grace into your life; to seek out more elegance and charm and artistry; to cultivate more alluring, delightful magic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You know the expiration dates that appear on the labels of the prescription drugs you buy? They don't mean that the drugs lose their potency after that date. In fact, most drugs are still quite effective for at least another 10 years. Let's use this fact as a metaphor for a certain resource or influence in your life that you fear is used up or defunct. I'm guessing it still has a lot to offer you, although you will have to shift your thinking in order to make its reserves fully available.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran rapper Eminem is renowned for his verbal skill. It may be best exemplified in his song "Rap God," in which he delivers 1,560 words in six minutes and four seconds, or 4.28 words per second. In one stretch, he crams in 97 words in 15 seconds, achieving a pace of 6.5 words per second. I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will also be unusually adept at using words, although your forte will be potent profundity rather than sheer speed. I encourage you to prepare by making a list of the situations where your enhanced powers of persuasion will be most useful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In May of 1883, the newly built Brooklyn Bridge opened for traffic. Spanning the East River to link Manhattan and Brooklyn, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. But almost immediately people spread rumors that it was unstable. There was a growing fear that it might even crumble and fall. That's when charismatic showman P. T. Barnum stepped in. He arranged to march 21 elephants across the bridge. There was no collapse, and so the rumors quickly died. I regard the coming weeks as a time when you should take inspiration from Barnum. Provide proof that will dispel gossipy doubt. Drive away superstitious fear with dramatic gestures. Demonstrate how strong and viable your improvements really are. **L.V.**

**CHRAASH***2017 the Music*

chrash1.bandcamp.com

There is an adage that says that rock music in particular benefits when conservatives are running the country. The idea is that musicians tend to hold more liberal stances, and when those ideologies are challenged, the response is in the music. But while the intersection of music and politics is certainly not new, by and large, it has been somewhat rare in popular music recently.

Quad Cities band Chrash followed 2016's *Things My Friends Say* with a surprise release coinciding with the Nov. 6 primaries. Titled *2017 The Music*, the album attempts to capture the year following the 2016 elections. Chris Bernat, the lead singer and songwriter for Chrash, noticed that the new songs he was writing were drawn from the headlines and conversations he was having around the new political landscape.

In an email exchange, Bernat explains, "As a songwriter influenced in my formative years by bands that would speak and write about issues of the day, I thought the time might be right to dive into concept territory ... Fueled by the frustration felt as the 'elected' seemed to be sabotaging democracy, the music and lyrics came easier than material had in the past."

The album opens with "Flowers of the Feel," a song that Bernat said they started with to represent the songs the band recorded before the 2016 elections—in his words, "abstract and nebulous." It's a great song—I love the clean jazzy chords that open it and reoccur throughout; the buzzy guitar solo around 1:45 is a nice contrast.

It only takes a look at the other song titles

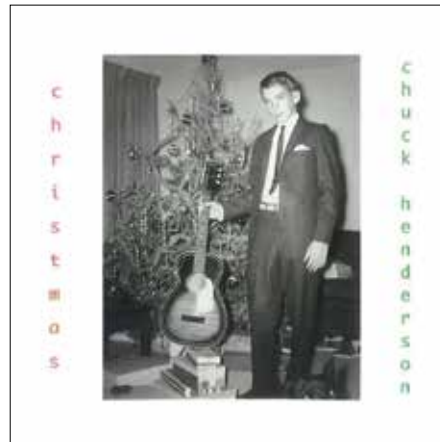
to see where the album stands politically. "Demon in a White House" doesn't name any names—it doesn't have to. "Tweet Storm" is a tongue-in-cheek title for a swinging barebones instrumental interlude anchored in bass and drums that wraps up in a minute.

The lack of a lot of politically topical albums like *2017 The Music* may be due to the

"DEMON IN A WHITE HOUSE" DOESN'T NAME ANY NAMES—IT DOESN'T HAVE TO.

fact that a lot of musicians have taken to social media to express their frustrations rather than to the studio. Is this a result of society's inability to consume messages in large doses, or is it that the musicians are afraid of alienating their fans? Maybe it's some of both. I still prefer my protests in the form of song. And by making their latest album topical in nature, Chrash have shown the listener a new and compelling side to the band.

—Michael Roeder

**CHUCK HENDERSON**
Christmas

Dear readers: For the purposes of this review, I broke one of my personal cardinal rules. I listened to Christmas music *before Dec. 1*.

And then I listened again, and again, and again. And I liked it.

Chuck Henderson's *Christmas*, despite the

name of the holiday gracing the title of the disc and included in seven of the song titles (if you count Christmas Eve and Xmas), is a Christmas album only inasmuch as it collects songs written about the day. It's not cloying or common or overly familiar. There's only the briefest of nods to the traditional, and the songs that sound the most Christmas-y

are the ones with tongue planted firmly in cheek ("A Very Funky Christmas" could easily stand strong in the company of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer").

None of these songs will have you competing with your friends to see who can go the longest

without hearing them each year. (I'm sure Mariah Carey "regrets" "All I Want for Christmas is You" all the way to the bank—but some part of her has to cringe at the start of the holiday season just like the rest of us.) Rather, they are plain good playing and writing that almost feel like they touch on Christmas by accident, through honest storytelling. Album opener "It Almost Feels Like Christmas," in its aching (but not maudlin) melancholy ranks with Joni Mitchell's "River" and Casiotone for the Painfully Alone's "Cold, White Christmas" for laying bare the holiday reactions we're not supposed to talk about.

Henderson is a long-time Iowa City staple who's name comes up with the likes of Dave Moore and Catfish Keith. He's been playing for years, and his skill is on full display on this record. It's a Christmas album for folks who dig traditional Iowa folk and blues, especially in its songwriting and philosophy.

"Start spreading the news/that those Muslims and Jews/can come to the party this year," Henderson sings in "Let's Put the X Back in Xmas," a tune with a tinge of honkeytonk that also namechecks "weird Unitarians," "all you heathens," and more. "Little Jesus was only a baby/And maybe he was who he was/But if you're keeping score/we never started a war/in the name of old Santa Claus./I can't find one goddamned good reason/to spoil this season of holiday cheer/So let's put the X back in Xmas/and celebrate each day of the year."

Forget December. For this record, I'm in each day of the year. LV/

—Genevieve Trainor

FEMINIST MOVEMENTS BY ANNA SHECHTMAN

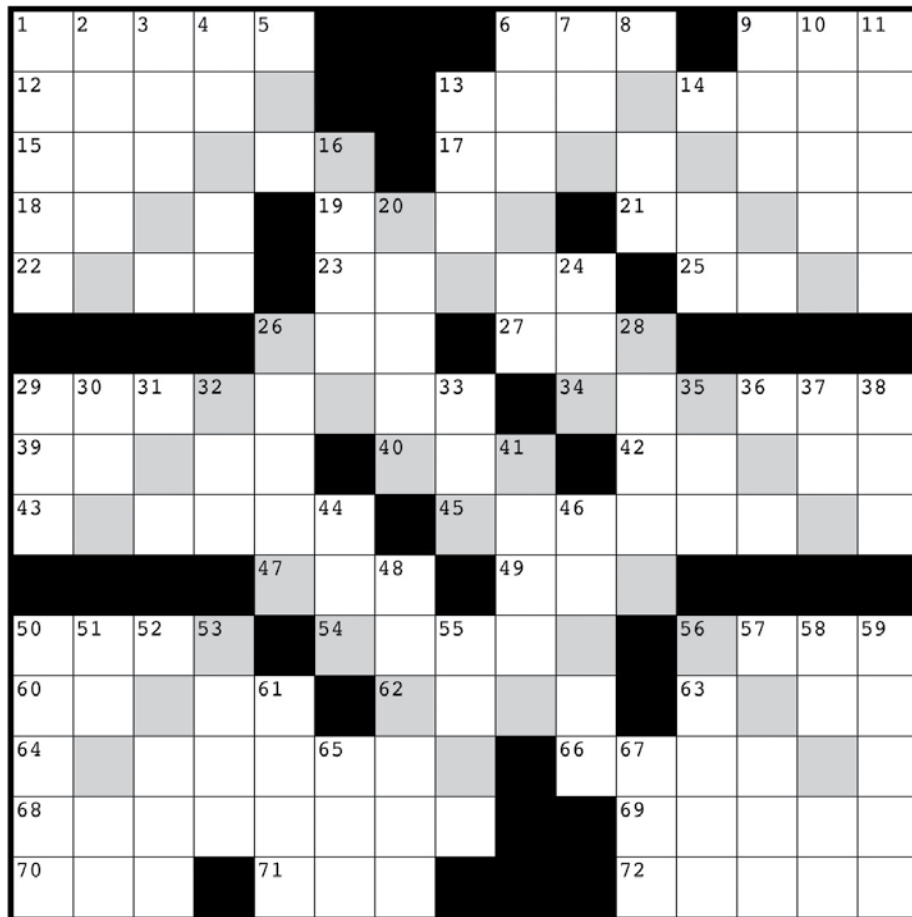
The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig.

ACROSS

1. Russian Ark roles
6. ____-relief (contoured artwork)
9. Awards show co-hosted by Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley since 2008
12. Some hotel lobbies
13. More fearsome
15. Sells out
17. Agent in an infectious disease thriller film
18. Steadfast
19. Impose ____ on
21. World's largest religious denomination
22. Latvia and Lithuania, once: Abbr.
23. Org. that's published *The Crisis* since 1910
25. *Rent* actor Diggs
26. Some sodas
27. *All Things Considered* host Shapiro
29. Afro-Brazilian martial art
34. The Supreme Court, e.g., although that's not a law and maybe someone solving this is thinking of winning the presidency in 2020 and doing some court-packing?
39. Eponymous George Eliot character
40. Felicitous
42. Iota predecessor
43. "Can't ... stop ... myself ..."
45. Result of bicep curls, maybe
47. Be mistaken
49. Aught
50. Regalia
54. Its percentage is listed on a bar of chocolate
56. *Angelus Novus* artist
60. Bothered
62. Druid's hood
63. Kind of housewife, ostensibly
64. Country known as Ceylon when under British colonial rule
66. Animal tracks
68. A Hillary Clinton signature
69. Retrograde term used to describe older women
70. Word before or after "day"
71. *The Lord of the Rings* creature
72. Metaphors for three phases of the feminist movement, representatives of which are shaded in the grid

DOWN

1. *Great British Baking Show* episode focus
2. "They're Just Like Us!", according to US Weekly
3. Pianist Schnabel or



LV253 ANSWERS



- Rubinstein
4. Starts a hot air balloon flight
5. Saint, in Brazil
6. Human rights activist and style icon Jagger
7. Literary rep.
8. Hushing sounds
9. Health

- insurance company with the motto "Together, all the way"
10. Second word in a children's counting rhyme
11. Nickname for golfing great Palmer
13. Film rating gp.
14. Jean-Luc Godard's ____ *Va Bien*
16. Country singer Griffith
20. Site of the first Islamic mosque outside of the Arabian peninsula

24. Ante-'s opposite
26. Remains, in France
28. NSA gathering?
29. Long-running forensic drama
30. 2008 TARP recipient
31. Org. that's held "observer status" at the UN since 1974
32. Non-dairy milk source
33. College-level H.S. courses, at times
35. FDR loan org.
36. Slogan ending

37. Bodega convenience
38. Prosecutors, for short
41. Thus far
44. Narrative shape
46. Iranian bills
48. 1983 Herbie Hancock hit
50. Startled sounds
51. "Don't go in! It's ____!"
52. Spanish chess piece
53. Lithuanian or Latvian, e.g.
55. Paint layer, or winter layer

56. 100 öre, in Sweden
57. Sainted 9th-century pope
58. *Guitar Town* guitarist Steve
59. Someone ____ (another's)
61. Zap, as a cop who might invite an excessive force lawsuit
65. *Sister Act* extra
67. Feline foot



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LV / *Reader Survey*

Thank you for reading *Little Village*! Our goal is to provide you with relevant and meaningful stories and to make every issue of *Little Village* a great one. We value your feedback, and we appreciate you taking the time to complete this two-minute survey to help us plan for 2019. ***NOTE:** All sections optional; all answers confidential.

Fill out your survey today, then cut it out and mail it in (or drop it off):
LV HQ, 623 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

Rather fill it out online? Visit LittleVillageMag.com/survey (before Dec. 20, please!)

How often do you read the print edition of *Little Village*?

- ☐ Never miss an issue
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ This is my first time

What other magazines do you read regularly?

What are your primary (top 1-3) news sources?

Did you vote in these elections?

2018: Yes / No **2016:** Yes / No

How often do you vote in local elections?

Always Sometimes Never

How often do you participate in primary elections?

Always Sometimes Never

What issues are you most passionate about?

- ☐ Affordability and access
- ☐ Economic and labor justice
- ☐ Environmental sustainability
- ☐ Racial justice
- ☐ Gender equity
- ☐ Quality healthcare
- ☐ Quality education

Please select the content that you read regularly:

- ☐ Arts Features
- ☐ Astrology
- ☐ Comics
- ☐ Community News
- ☐ Crossword Puzzle
- ☐ Events Calendar
- ☐ Food & Drink
- ☐ Hot Tin Roof
- ☐ Letters to the Editor
- ☐ Your Village
- ☐ Dear Kiki
- ☐ Sex & Love
- ☐ Local Album Reviews
- ☐ Local Business Advertisements

How often do you check the events calendar on *LittleVillageMag.com*?

All the time Occasionally Never

Do you read *LV*'s other publications?

***Yogalowa*:** Yes / No

***Bread & Butter*:** Yes / No

Which events do you regularly enjoy:

- ☐ Live Music
- ☐ Art/Exhibition
- ☐ Theatre/Performance
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Cinema
- ☐ Food & Drink
- ☐ Educational/Lecture
- ☐ Community/Political
- ☐ Fashion
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Sports & Rec

How often do you dine out?

- ☐ Less than once/week
- ☐ 1-3x/week
- ☐ 3-5x/week
- ☐ 5+ x/week

How do you usually access *LV* online?

- ☐ I go directly to LittleVillageMag.com
- ☐ Via Facebook
- ☐ Via Twitter
- ☐ Via *LV*'s Daily Digest newsletters
- ☐ I only read it in print

What is your personal annual income?

- ☐ Less than \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000-\$40,000
- ☐ \$40,000-\$60,000
- ☐ \$60,000-\$80,000
- ☐ \$80,000-\$100,000
- ☐ \$100,000+

If you could, would you like to receive *LV* by mail?

Yes / No

Given the choice, would you rather do business with a *Little Village* advertiser?

Yes / No

What is your zip code? _____

What year were you born? _____

What is your gender identity?

What is one thing *LV* should do more of in 2019?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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